Pokémon Forums Gym Story

Preface

By MonstaDash

Date: 11/8/25

This is a project that took place in the Official Pokémon Forums (https://community.pokemon.com/en-us/) started by the user classinga back in March 25th 2024. The premise of this project is that each part of the story can only be written by a unique user, with no repeats. Classinga was very persistent that each part is written by someone new to give everyone an opportunity to write, but it should be mentioned he broke the rule himself and wrote two parts. During the development of the project it had seen a lot of success and a lot of shortcomings, as this project managed to get a lot of story produced but had many pauses due to members either taking long to write their parts or simply leaving the forums and no one taking their spot. This problem greatly affects the project as during the time this document has been uploaded there has been no new contributions to the project staying in development hell. Personally i tried to move the project forward as I was assigned to write Elite Four Member 4 and had written it anticipating that the Elite Four Member 3 part would be written but the original author for Elite Four Member 3 became inactive so it was being passed around to others who shortly became inactive. After waiting for roughly two months I grew impatient and decided to take matters into my own hands and write both parts, which classinga quickly dismissed my Elite Four Member 3 part as not canon, despite him in the past writing multiple parts. Three months after i wrote my part a new author named Hades0918 wrote the part for Elite Four Member 3, allowing the project to move to a new stall. The final Victory Road Chapter for the Champion is supposed to be written by an author named UnovanZorua but as with many other users it is stalling. If this project does not finish by the end of November the I plan on finishing it myself, I feel that this project deserves a proper ending and it would be a shame if the hard work of many authors would result in a story never reaching its completion. For archival purposes I included my Elite Four Member 3 part.

Chapter 1

Author: clasingla

Date Published: 25/4/24

Arlo just turn 10 and is preparing to take on the forum league his friend and rival Jax had already set off on a journey and was coming back to help all get

started on his Pokémon journey he got prepared and went to professor pine to get his first Pokémon the professor told him that one of the starters where shiny but was not going to tell which one the starters were snivy, mudkip, and scorbunny then his rival Jax came in.

Chapter 2: Rivals

Author: Resilient30

Date Published: 26/4/24

”This won’t do.” said Jax as he dropped his backpack on the bed. It was filled to the brim, and he hadn’t even packed his most essential items. “Great.” He said, his voice rich in sarcasm. He knew it was going to be a tough journey, there weren’t many poke rest stops between his small town and the closest city with a gym, and he couldn’t fit all the things he thought he ‘needed’. It wasn’t unheard of for 10 year old boys to set off on a journey to become Pokemon trainers, and try to become the Champion, but a champion was only crowned once-in-a-lifetime pretty much, and Jax had almost no hope of becoming one. Truth be told he didn’t even really like Pokémon, he liked the house-pet ones, like evees, or arcanines, but he didn’t care much for the feathery or scaley ones. So why would he go on a Pokémon journey if he didn’t like Pokémon? Arlo. The boy that drove him to such determination. His childhood ‘friend’. They’d been friends for as long as Jax could remember, yet Jax always kept a secret from Arlo. He was jealous of Arlo. A prodigy; he always excelled at everything, sports, school, even the popular Pokémon TCG card game. Jax was always in Arlo’s shadow. But now was his chance to prove to Arlo- no, everyone that he could be the best. “You’ll be late!” His father shouted from down stairs. “Professor Pine said to be there at 8:00 sharp, Y’know.” “Almost ready!” Replied Jax in an irritated tone, even though he was no where close to being finished packing. He took out his playing cards, yo-yo, and some other trinkets, threw in the rest of his favorite clothes and called it quites.

He parked his bike at the Prof. Pine’s Pokémon daycare entrance, and looked at his watch. 6:17. He ran through the facility as fast as he could, and in the lab he saw Prof. Pine, and beside him, Arlo. “Ah, there you are Jax. I already gave your Pokémon to someone else.” Said Prof. Pine with a frown. “R-really?” Said Jax trembling. “AH-HA” Pine let out a bellowing laugh. He always amused himself more than he did anyone else. “No young man, I’m teasing, there’s still a Pokémon for you to choose.” Assured Pine. Jax stood beside Arlo, though he they said nothing to each other. Jax could see the determination and excitement in his eyes. “You have 3 Pokémon to choose from: A squirtle, cyndaquil, or treeko. One of them is actually a rare shiny, though you’ll have to figure out which!” Exclaimed Pine. “Arlo, you pick first.” “I’ve been thinking on it for a few days now, and I think I’ll choose treeko, I think we’d have the most synergy.” Said Arlo confidently. Jax was sweating, this was the most

important decision of his life, and he hadn't even considered which to choose. "Um…I'll go with this one." He said picking up the pokeball, not even knowing which was inside. He opened his pokeball, and out came a small squirtle that just yawned, and retracted into it's shell. 'Of course..' Jax thought to himself. A scaley-probably-slimey lazy little Pokémon, that was, in fact, NOT shiny. Arlo let out his SHINY treeko. "Nice to meet you treeko! From now on we're lifelong friends." The energetic treeko let out a joyful noise, and climbed onto his backpack. "Just my luck, he got the good one." Thought Jax. "Here are are your Pokédex's." Said Pine as he handed them each a red device. "Now, you boys best run along if you want to make it to the gym before the end of the week."

They walked down the road in silence, Jax knew Arlo felt the tension between them, even though Arlo didn't know why it was there. "You okay?" Said Arlo finally breaking the silence. "Yup." Said Jax curtly. "Well…Do you like your Pokémon? Squirtles are pretty cute." Said Arlo trying to be cheerful. "He's fine I guess." Said Jax with a lack of enthusiasm. "How about we have a battle..?" Challenged Arlo.

(Pokémon changed to mudkip and snivy) They gathered at a nearby clearing in the woods. There were small claw and burn marks on the surrounding trees- most likely battles from other young trainers who shared the same story as Arlo's and Jax's. It was time. Time to show Arlo he wasn't the best at everything, regardless if Arlo was always so humble about it. That's what irritated Jax the most, Arlo seemed oblivious to the fact that he was a golden prodigy, and in being so, he solidified his perfection.

Jax let out his sleepy Mudkip, and Arlo his energetic snivey. "You're move first Jax!" Arlo shouted across what had become their battlefield. "This is it, mudkip." Said Jax. "This is the moment our legacy starts." "…Mudkip use water gun, then follow up with a tackle!!" Commanded Jax. Instantly, the mudkip perked up and immediately followed his instructions. At Arlo's command, treeko swiftly dodged his attacks to the right. "Use leer!" Shouted Arlo. Mudkip was visibly distraught at the attack, it obviously had an effect on him. "Now, retreat back and use vine whip." Snivy let out a fury of vine slaps. "Mudkip, protect!" Mudkip warded off the attacks. "Rock throw, mudkip!" Snivy dodged to the right. "Water gun again!" And again, Snivy dodged to the right. "So that's it…" Jax thought to himself. "He relies on his right for mobility." Snivy let out a powerful leaf tornado that threw Mudkip to the side, but he quickly recovered. "Mudkip, use growl, then shoot water gun at his right side!" Mudkip did just that, and Snivy did a clumsy doge to the left. "Now, rock throw at his left, and water gun his right!!" Snivy barely dodged the left attack before running right into his water gun. "Tackle!" Mudkip slammed full force into Snivy. "Tackle!" Shouted Jax once more. Mudkip rammed him again, and Snivy feinted.

This was it. The thin veil of friendship was torn away to show what was truly between them. Rivalry. They were finally equals. Jax was no longer in his

shadow. Jax hopped on his bike he’d been pulling with him, and rode off without a word to Arlo, his next stop was the first gym.

Chapter 3: 1st Gym Leader

Author: Eremas

Date Published: 1/5/24

"What is taking him so long?" Hildr the flying type Gym Leader asked Jett the Gym Trainer.
"Sometimes they take a little while." Jett said rubbing his eyes. It was the early morning and the sun was still rising. A sight you could see from inside the Gym because there was a stadium like opening at the top of it.
Hildr was used to the early morning. Getting up before the roosters crow.
Hildr said, "If it was me I would be off to the second Gym with six spearow."
And with those words spoken the doors opened and the challenger Arlo appeared, wide-eyed and with two pokeballs on his belt.
Jett stepped forward and threw his pokeball. "Go Pidgey!" "Go Snivy, you know what to do!" Arlo countered assuredly.
Pidgey immediately released a sand-attack. Jett shocked Snivy and Arlo with this preparation. Is this what all trainers are going to be like?
"Quick Atttack, Pidgey!" said Jett.
"Snivy we're not out of it yet. Wait for Pidgey to get close and use Wrap!" Arlo commanded.
Jett's Pidgey was already close enough and hit Snivy hard. But Snivy being tough got it's move off. It was all about staying close to this Pidgey now. Jett's instincts weren't the best telling Pidgey to Gust from such a close range. "Use Tackle Snivy." The Wrap and Tackle combo was too much and Pidgey was out of energy.
"Come back Pidgey." And Jett recalled his Pokemon into its pokeball.
Hildr watching the battle really wanted to test this new trainer and sent out her first Pokemon not giving the challenger much time to get ready. "Go Rookidee!" As she was walking forward, she released her Pokemon even farther ahead. Almost right on top of Arlo. Arlo was spraying his Snivy with a Potion unready for such an offense. Arlo stepped and turned in front of Snivy, taking the hit of a Rookidee Peck.
Arlo was slow to get up. He pushed up off the ground with his left hand and with his right held his side(where he was hit). Snivy had instinctively used Wrap, grabbing the Rookidee. Arlo knowing this was bad commanded Snivy again, "Use Vine whip, get it off you!"
"Power up your Peck with a Powe…" poink a Cramorant popped out of Hildr's pokeball belt. Hildr was known as the 'Early Bird' but noone was as early as Cramorant. This stage was over, after the last Peck Snivy needed a Pokemon Center. Cramorant looked on as Arlo recalled Snivy, and sent out his last Pokemon.

"Your turn to shine! Go Pawmi!" Arlo caught a shiny Pawmi! He spent all night(and the early morning) to find it. Pawmi matched Arlo's energy, but only when Arlo wasn't injured this badly. Pawmi understood the urgency. Pawmi released a Thundershock and fainted the tired Rookidee. "One versus one. It's all down to this."
Cramorant waddled forward. Hildr caught this bird when she was a young trainer. And it's never liked staying in it's pokeball for long. It didn't need much preparing to be the star of the first stop on the Gym Challenge.
"Okay Crammy use Stockpile." Hildr was confident in Cramorant's strength because it overpowered many beginning trainer's pokemon in the past but with a stockpile it would be even bulkier.
Getting ready for a stand off Arlo had Pawmi use Charge. "Follow Charge up with a Thundershock!"
"Water Gun, Cramorant and then Stockpile again." Hildr was thinking her Cramorant was infallible.
Thunder
shocks were seen from outside the Gym but Hildr from up close underestimated Arlo and his Pawmi. "Cramorant use Watergun and Stockpile again!" Cramorant was getting outclassed. Arlo had cornered the Gym Leader purely with his last Pokemon's typing, as it kept hitting Cramorant with Thundershocks.
Cramorant didn't take these attacks well and Hildr wanted to get Crammy out of the brunt of these godly Thundershocks. "Come back Cramorant. We're no match." And Hildr re-pokeballed the tired Cramorant. "Crammy is tough but we know when we're to retreat. Congratulations Arlo. You've earned your first award. The Aegis badge is yours. With it you can train Pokemon up to level 25 and move on to your next challenge. Happy Adventuring."

Chapter 4: Catching Litleo

Author: Octowen

Date Published: 3/5/24

As the morning sun painted the sky with hues of orange and pink, Arlo set out on a hike through the lush forest near his hometown. With his trusted Pokémon companions, Snivy and Pawmi, by his side, he ventured deeper into the wilderness, eager to explore the wonders that awaited him. As he wandered along the winding trail, Arlo noticed a rustling in the bushes ahead. Curious, he approached cautiously, his senses on high alert. Suddenly, a small, fiery Pokémon burst forth from the undergrowth, its mane ablaze with vibrant flames. Arlo’s eyes widened in awe as he realized he was face to face with a Litleo, a rare and majestic creature he had only ever seen in books and documentaries. Excitement surged through him as he reached for his Pokédex to learn more about the fiery lion cub Pokémon. But before he could even scan the Litleo, it let out a fierce roar, challenging Arlo to a battle. Without

hesitation, Arlo accepted, knowing that this would be an opportunity to test his skills as a Pokémon trainer. With a confident grin, Arlo called upon Snivy to lead the charge. The grass-type Pokémon sprang into action, ready to take on the fiery challenger. Litleo wasted no time in launching a barrage of Ember attacks, its flames dancing and flickering in the cool morning air. But Snivy was quick on its feet, skillfully dodging the fiery onslaught as it countered with a flurry of Vine Whip attacks. The two Pokémon clashed in a dazzling display of skill and determination, each refusing to back down in the face of adversity. As the battle intensified, Arlo realized he needed to switch tactics. After all, even though Snivy was giving its all, they were battling a fire type. With a quick command, he called upon Pawmi, his electric-type Pokémon, to join the fray. Pawmi unleashed powerful electric shocks, crackling with energy as they danced towards Litleo, who yelped in surprise. Despite Litleo's valiant efforts, it soon found itself overwhelmed by the combined damage of Snivy and Pawmi. With one final, determined push, Arlo managed to weaken the fiery lion cub Pokémon enough to make it vulnerable to capture. With a triumphant shout, Arlo hurled a Pokéball towards Litleo, watching with bated breath as it wobbled and shook on the forest floor. And then, with a satisfying *click*, the Pokéball stilled, signaling Arlo's victory. As he scooped up the Pokéball containing his newest companion, Arlo felt a surge of pride and excitement course through him. With Litleo by his side, he knew that their adventures together were only just beginning, and that together, they would conquer any challenge that lay ahead.

Chapter 5: 2nd Gym Leader

Author: Octowen

Date Published: 4/5/24

Arlo stands at the entrance of the steel-type gym, his heart pounding with anticipation. The gym leader, Quinn, is known for his formidable team of steel-type Pokémon, and Arlo is ready to put his skills to the test. With his team by his side: Snivy, Pawmi, and recently caught Litleo, he steps inside the gym, determined to earn his badge. Quinn emerges from the shadows, his eyes gleaming with confidence as he surveys his opponent. "Welcome, Arlo," he says, his voice echoing in the cavernous gym. "I hope you're prepared for a challenge." Arlo nods, his gaze unwavering. "I'm ready," he replies, his voice steady despite the nervous flutter in his stomach. The battle begins, and Arlo sends out Snivy, his grass-type Pokémon, to lead the charge. Quinn counters with Ferroseed, a sturdy steel and grass type with formidable defenses. “Snivy, use Bullet Seed!” Arlo exclaims. But the attack has virtually no effect on Ferroseed! “Use Metal Claw,” commands Quinn. As the attack rips through Snivy, Arlo realizes he is at a massive disadvantage due to Snivy’s typing—but he knows how to fix that. With a quick switch, Arlo calls upon Litleo, his new fire type Pokémon, to take on Ferroseed. “Use Ember!”

Shouts Arlo. Litleo braces itself and launches a miniature fireball towards Ferroseed, dealing doubly super effective damage and leaving Ferroseed demolished. But Quinn is far from defeated. With a determined glint in his eye, he sends out Beldum, a sleek steel and psychic type with incredible speed and power. Arlo knows he needs to act fast, so he quickly decides to give Litleo a break and sends in Pawmi, his lightning-type Pokémon, to take on the challenge. Arlo figures that Pawmi's resistance to steel type moves will give it an advantage against Beldum. The battle rages on, each Pokémon unleashing their most powerful attacks in a dazzling display of skill and determination. "Beldum, use Iron Head," instructs Quinn. Beldum shoots forward and slams into Pawmi, dealing a solid amount of damage, but less than it normally would, due to Pawmi's typing. "Fire back with Thunder Shock, Pawmi," declares Arlo. Pawmi shocks Beldum with a jolt of electricity, but even though it's normal effect, the weaker lightning type move doesn't do as much as Arlo would have liked against Quinn's Beldum. And that's not all. "Beldum, use Zen Headbutt," decrees Quinn. The powerful and non-resisted Psychic type move slams Pawmi into the wall of the gym, eliminating it from the battle. Arlo brings Litleo back in, confident in its ability to finish off the Beldum. "Use Fire Fang," he instructs. Litleo's flaming maw chomps down on Beldum, beginning to melt the disadvantaged steel type. Beldum is definetly done for the battle. But Quinn wasn't finished yet. With a triumphant grin, he sends out his final Pokémon, Lairon, a massive steel and rock type with extreme strength and no weakness to Litleo. Arlo knew he had to dig deep if he wanted to emerge victorious. With unwavering determination, Arlo brings Snivy back into the battle, refusing to back down in the face of adversity. Lairon uses Smack Down, launching a massive rock in Snivy's direction, which Snivy barley manages to scamper out of the way of, but Snivy heals up its previously lost HP by landing a Mega Drain in Lairon, who is too slow to dodge. Arlo realizes his chance for victory depends on Snivy outpacing Lairon, and immediately commands Snivy to use Magical leaf. Lairon has taken a sizeable amount of damage, but still has around half of its health remaining, and Quinn is about to unleash destruction. "Lairon! Use Take Down," Quinn commands. Lairon slams into Snivy, grinding the latter against the hard metal flooring of the gym. But Snivy barely hangs on, and Arlo utilizes an old but reliable combo. "Snivy, use Wrap and then Vine Whip," Arlo recites. Snivy's Wrap attack ensnares Lairon, and then Snivy slams its vines into Lairon's softer underside, finally knocking it out. As the battle comes to a close, Arlo and Quinn exchange a respectful nod, their mutual admiration for each other's skills evident in their eyes. Though the battle had been fierce, Arlo had reigned triumphant. "Here is the metalloid badge. You've earned it," Quinn says, and hands Arlo the mark of achievement. Leaving the gym with his head held high and his badge proudly displayed, Arlo knows that he is one step closer to his dream of becoming a Pokémon Master. And with his loyal Pokémon team at his side, he is ready to face whatever challenges lie ahead.

Chapter 6: 3rd Gym Leader

Author: Specter478

Date Published: 6/5/24

It was a bright and sunny morning and Arlo was on his way to the fire gym. where he would test his skills against the gym leader if he got this badge it would be his third! and he would be even closer to becoming a pokemon master. He was walking down the road eating a pecha berry when he saw a strange figure by the path. the figure looked like a young boy about 10 years old and he looked devastated about something. "What's wrong?" Arlo asked. "My pokemon are missing!" wailed the boy looking miserable. "I woke up this morning and they were gone!". "I searched everywhere!". "Well maybe we can go to town and tell officer Jenny?" said Arlo. "I'm on my way to fight the gym leader any way", "Ok i'll join you" said the boy looking slightly less miserable. "Oh i forgot to ask your name", said Arlo, "It's Harley said the boy, what's yours?". "Arlo" said Arlo. "Do you have any pokemon that didn't vanish Harley?", asked Arlo. "Yes my squirtle is still with me" said Harley tossing a poke ball down reveling a sleepy looking squirtle. which promptle yawned and went to sleep." Cool" said Arlo, "what are the pokemon that are missing?". "Torracat, Flarion, and Fletchinder" say's Harley looking sad again. "Well", say's Arlo "lets go look for them in town, maybe they will be their". "Ok" say's Harley. About 2 hour's later."Officer Jenny!?" yells Harley as the boy's arrive at the police station. "Yes?" says Officer Jenny, "I'm Harley and I think some of my pokemon have been stolen!" "Oh dear are you sure!" say's Officer Jenny, "I'm pretty sure" say's Harley". Sensing that this would be a long conversation and impatient to go battle the gym leader Arlo decides to leave, "I'm going to go ahead to the fire gym to battle the gym leader" say"s Arlo, "Bye and good luck finding your pokemon!" say's Arlo, "Thanks and good luck with the gym battle!" Say's Harley. Without another thought Arlo hurries off to the fire type gym.

As Arlo arrives at the fire gym he gazed in awe at the giant flame patterned arena. This is a lot bigger than the other arena he said to himself. As he waited for the gym leader Arlo wonders if Harley is having any luck finding his missing pokemon, he is so deep in thought he does not notice the stranger standing right next to him. "Hello?" Says the stranger. Arlo jumps, "oh sorry I didn't notice you, you scared me" Says Arlo. "its ok I often lose myself in thought to" Says the stranger, "by the way are you a gym challenger?"Says the stranger. "Oh yes I'm looking for the gym leader" Says Arlo. "That would be me" Says the stranger. " My name is Wraith and I'm the new gym leader. Arlo frowned, "What happened to the other one?" Arlo said, "He retired" Said Wraith, "I don't believe I ever caught your name..." "Oh it's Arlo" Says Arlo "Well welcome Arlo" Say's Wraith "Are you ready to start the battle?" "Definitely" Say's Arlo with a nervous grin. "Well let the show begin" Say's Wraith with cold smile, that made Arlo feel slightly uncomfortable. "This will

be a 1v1 battle with three pokemon on each team" says Wraith. "Got it" says Arlo. Both release their pokemon."Torracat use flame thrower" Says Wraith, "Snivy dodge!" Snivy barely manages to dodge the flames, "Torracat use ember!" "Snivy dodge and return" Says Arlo who has decided to use Pawni instead, "Pawmi use static" says Arlo in the hopes that it might paralyze the Torracat, it worked Torracat cant move! "Pawmi use thunder!" Says Arlo Direct hit Torracat faints, Wraith tosses down another pokemon ball this time its a Flarion, "Flarion use flame wheel." Pawmi doesn't manage to dodge in time Pawmi faints Arlo groans, Wraith smiles "well well its a 2v2 now" "Litleo go" says Arlo "Flarion flame wheel" says Wraith, "Litleo dodge!" says Arlo Litleo dodges just in the nick of time Arlo gives a sigh of relief, "Litleo use tackle!" Says Arlo its a direct hit, "Flarion use ember" Says Wraith Litleo dodges easily, Flarion is starting to weaken Arlo takes his chance "Litleo use bite!" Flarion faints, Wraith is starting to look a little annoyed now "Fletchinder go!" Says Wraith, Arlo frowns aren't these the pokemon Harley is missing? "Fletchinder use peck!" Arlo is to distracted to react in time! it hits Litleo, Litleo faints "Snivy go" Arlo knows he's at an extreme disadvantage now grass against fire. "Fletchinder use flamethrower" Arlo prepares for the worst but nothing happens, " Fletchinder use flamethrower!" but Fletchinder wasn't paying attention instead it was staring at the door that Harley had just walked through. Harley stares in shock that's his Fletchender! "Hey that's my pokemon!" Says Harley, "let us finish are battle then we will sort this out" Says Wraith, "No you stole them while I was asleep!," Says Harley, who is starting to get angry. "Give my pokemon back!," Says Harley, "Give me a second kid! cant you see I'm kind of busy?!" Says Wraith, but Harley who was sick of talking decided to take action, "Fletchinder use peck on that man!. Wraith tosses down another poke ball reveling a Absol. "Absol use night slash on Fletchinder!" "Fletchender dodge" says Harley, Arlo who had been shocked at the turn of events decided to take action. "Snivy use wrap" Says Arlo. "Fletchender use aerial ace" Says Harley. Absol who can't move because of wrap takes a direct hit and is out of the battle. "Two to one is hardly fair" Says Wraith. Wraith tosses down two more poke balls. "Houndoom, Flutter Mane, their now its even" Says Wraith, "Houndoom use thunder fang on Fletchender, Flutter Mane use shadow ball on Fletchender" Says Wraith. "Fletchender dodge!" Yells Harley. Fletchender dodges the Houndooms attack only to get hit by shadow ball! Fletchender faints. "And now its a 2v1." says Wraith with a smile "Squirtle water gun!" Says Harley. "Wait what?! where did Squirtle come from?" Says Wraith with a frown It hits Flutter Mane. "Snivy vine whip" Says Arlo. Flutter mane can't take much more. "Squirtle finish it with tidal wave! Flutter Mane faints and Houndoom looks very weak. "Fine you win here is your badge". I don't wan't your friends weak pokemon any way". says Wraith. "But remember next time we meet i won't be so easy to beat and I wont be so nice". Says Wraith as he turns to walk out the door. "Wait who are you and why are you doing this?" says Arlo. "I'm still Wraith and I'm part of team Paradox and this is just what we do,"Says Wraith. "Houndoom use smog," Says Wraith. The room gets filled with a dark smog and when it clears Wraith is gone. "Where did he go?" Says Arlo. "I don't know

but he left a badge and my pokemon!" Says Harley. "You better get those pokemon to the pokemon center". Says Arlo. "Yea yours to"Says Harley. A little bit later. "I wonder what team paradox is". says Harley, "I don't know," says Arlo "I hope I don't run into any more of them though." Says Arlo, "Yea me to", Says Harley, "So what do plan on doing now that you have your pokemon back?" Asked Arlo. "I think I will stay and wait for a new gym leader to show up then challenge them," Said Harley what do you plan on doing Arlo?" Asked Harley. "I guess I will continue with my journey to battle all the gym leaders and become a pokemon master!" Said Arlo. "Now that I have my third badge its time to head off to the next gym". "Well good luck becoming a pokemon master and thanks for helping me get my pokemon back!", Said Harley. "Good luck with the fire gym and maybe we will meet again sometime, so see you!", Said Arlo. And just like that Arlo was on his way to the next gym.

Chapter 7: Rendezvous With Copper

Author: Acornyo

Date Published: 12/5/24

Deep in the heart of the forest, the Professor's Assistant, Copper, was keeping a watch on Team Paradox's operations, all the whilst keep tabs on them. He's sitting on top of a nearby hill with his trusty Pokemon, Boltund.

"Alright, buddy. We have all the data we need, so why don't we go and do what we *actually* came here to do?" Boltund barked happily before following Copper's lead down the hill.

It wasn't long before a Team Paradox Grunt spotted them. "What are you doin' here? I can tell from that goofy broach on your neck that you work for Professor Pine! Now step back!"

Copper just laughed. "I was just walking my Boltund over here! He has a gift for you. Want to give them the "gift" buddy?" Boltund barked excitedly and wagged his tail. "Show 'em, buddy!"

And with that, Boltund gave them his gift, Electro Ball! He aimed it straight for their supercomputer, causing it to start glitching and self-destruct, but not before Copper and Boltund ran far away.

"Good job, buddy! Now to call that kid..." Copper then pulled out his Rotom-Phone and dialed our hero, Arlo. The phone rang before being picked up. "Hey, you're Arlo, right? No time to talk, but I'm Professor Pine's assistant, and he told me to give you something. Meet you at Woodle City once you get 3 badges, alright? Thank you, bye!"

And with that, Copper hung up.

Over in Woodle City, Copper is standing by a fountain, while Boltund is sleeping on the ledge. Just then, our hero Arlo come running into town. He seems stressed, and by the looks of hit, he sprinted all the way here!

"Hello! Professor's Assistant?! You there?!" Arlo said while looking around frantically. The two had never actually met, so he didn't know what Copper looked like.

Copper walks over. "I'm here, I'm here. So, you're the famous Arlo I heard about? Pleasure to meet you. My name's Copper."

Arlo chuckled. "Thanks! So, what did Pine tell you to call me for?"

"My boss told me to give you a gift! A new Pokemon for your team. Ever heard of a Duraludon?"

Arlo looked surprised "A DURALUDON?! WOAH!"

Copper chuckled as he tossed the Pokeball to him. "Take good care of him, okay? He's a real kind one."

"Can we battle? I wanna see his skills!"

"Sorry kid, maybe another day, when you're stronger. I oughta go do more research. Ciao!" And with that, Copper and Boltund walked off. Arlo was a little shocked at the denial, but was still too excited about his Duraludon to let it sink in.

Chapter 8: 4th Gym Leader

Author: OlderAngel11

Date Published: 13/5/24

Arlo walked down the streets of Aegis, the city that held the normal-type gym. He held his head high, his new pokemon, Duraludon, safely in its poke ball in his pocket. The cool wind blew through his blonde hair as he climbed the steps to the normal gym. There were loud noises coming from behind the doors, and he stopped for a minute, pressing his ear to the door to listen. He could decipher nothing from the noises— wait, was that an electric jolt? Yes, that was certainly electricity crackling.

With nothing left to do, Arlo shoved open the door and strode inside. On one side of the gym was a defeated gym trainer, his pokemon, a bidoof, fainted on the ground. On the other side of the gym was the gym leader himself, Atticus. He had long brown hair and wore a clean, white robe with a gray jacket. On his feet were gray sandals. He had just recalled his last pokemon, but Arlo had entered the gym too late to get a glimpse of what it was.

As Arlo watched in awe, Atticus walked powerfully over to the mini pokemon center machine in one corner of the gym to heal his weary pokemon. After

the machine gave a beep, he retracted his pokeballs and walked back to the center of the gym.

"I suppose you are next?" he called, pointing a finger at Arlo. Arlo looked over his shoulder to see if he was talking about anyone else.

"Me?" Arlo asked, but it came out a squeak. He cleared his throat and tried again. "Me?" he repeated, this time more strongly.

"Yes," Atticus drawled, his lip curling. "You have pokemon, yes? You are here to fight, yes?"

"Er— Yes," Arlo replied. This guy made him very nervous.

"Then stop blithering and get over here," Atticus ordered. "I don't have time for this."

Arlo balled his fist and stormed to the center of the gym. "I'll show you what I'm made of!" he yelled defiantly.

"Yes please do," Atticus snarled, throwing his first poke ball.

A Minncino exploded out of the ball.

Arlo burst out laughing.

"Ha! You're the fourth gym leader and you use a Minncino?! Hahahaha!"

Atticus looked murderous. "Minncino, fury swipes!"

The chinchilla pokemon charged at Arlo, who threw his first poke ball in response. As the poke ball hit the ground, Arlo's Pawmi flew at the minccino. But the minccino's attack connected first, and in a blinding slash of claws, Arlo's Pawmi was sent flying backwards across the gym. "Pawmi!" Arlo cried. The Pawmi had quite obviously fainted, so all Arlo could do was withdraw it to its pokeball.

"I'll try something a bit different, then!" Arlo yelled, and sent his Duraludon out. "Duraludon, Metal Claw!"

Arlo's Duraludon looked at Arlo as though he were something dirty he'd just found on the street.

The Minccino attacked the Duraludon, which fled across the gym. "No!" Arlo cried. "Duraludon, come back!"

Arlo pressed the button on the poke ball and in a flash of red light the duraludon returned to the Pokeball. "Snivy, go!"

Snivy dashed at the Mincinno, knocking it out in one Quick Attack.

Atticus sneered. "Ready for something a bit more challenging?" Arlo didn't even have time to say "no" before the Helioptile was flying at him.

"Snivy, dodge! Counter with Leafage!" The Snivy dodged out of the way and shot a blast of leaves at the helioptile, which fell. Suddenly, Arlo's Snivy started glowing. "What—" he grabbed his pokedex. *Snivy is evolving*, the screen read. "Evolving?" Arlo echoed, who returned his gaze to his snivy. Only it wasn't a snivy anymore. It was a Servine.

Atticus had been watching with an annoyed expression. "Are you quite finished with your little evolution party over there? Wigglytuff, rollout!"

A huge Wigglytuff came rolling out of nowhere, slamming into Servine and knocking it to the ground. "Servine, uh— I don't know what moves you can use! Pokedex!" He flipped open the screen and hastily read Servine's move list. "Quick attack, Leafage, Vine Whip, Tail Whip— all the same. Good. Servine, Tail whip!" Servine waved its tail provokingly at the Wigglytuff, which made an angry noise and rolled at him. The move hit, but it did less damage, just as intended.

"Time to go offensive, Servine! Vine whip!" The vine whip connected, sending WIgglytuff rolling in the other direction. The huge pokemon hit the wall and sat there dazed for a minute. "Now, Servine, finish it up with Quick Attack!"

Snivy darted at the Wigglytuff, hitting it straight in the stomach. It let out a deflated squeak and fainted.

Atticus snarled in frustration. "Argh, fine. You win. I suppose. By some miracle. Here's your badge."

He threw the gym badge to Arlo, who dropped it and scrambled to pick it back up. It was a perfectly simple, white sphere.

"I believe in simplicity," Atticus called. "That's why I like normal types. I asked the pokemon league to put me higher up on the gym challenge, but they made me the fourth gym leader, only letting me use three pokemon. Jerks. Anyway, I have to clean this place up for the next challenger. Oh, and that Duraludon isn't going to listen to you unless you give it some training."

With that, Arlo left the normal type gym, his spirits high.

Chapter 9: 5th Gym Leader

Author: puplover1118

Date Published: 16/6/24

On the move again after winning his fourth gym badge, Arlo was searching the route to the next gym, looking for any Pokemon he could battle with Duraludon and possibly add to his team. He knew that he had to have Duraludon cooperate with him, or else they might never form that bond that all the top trainers shared with their Pokemon. However, as Arlo saw the

imposing skyscrapers of the next city rise over the horizon, he felt that that chance wouldn't turn up before the next gym.

Arlo took out Duraludon's Pokeball and whispered to it. "I hope that I get the chance to become your friend."

When Arlo was about to put the Pokeball away, there was a rustling from the grass to his side, and a Manectric jumped out. It was the moment Arlo was waiting for, and he swiftly tossed the Pokeball, sending Duraludon out to battle.

Arlo checked his Pokedex to find out what moves Duraludon had. "Duraludon," Arlo commanded, "use Dragon Claw!" Duraludon, instead of attacking the Manectric, just glared at Arlo and sat on the ground.

"Duraludon, use Dragon Claw!" Arlo repeated, but it had no effect on Duraludon. All the while, the wild Manectric kept biting at the Alloy Pokemon, slowly weakening it. Arlo didn't want Duraludon to faint due to a thousand cuts– or, in this case, bites– so he tried again to have Duraludon attack.

"Duraludon," he called out, "you have to attack! Please, use Dragon Claw!"

Arlo watched Duraludon carefully. He thought he saw the Pokemon look back in confirmation before it got up and struck the unsuspecting Manectric with its claw. It was Metal Claw, not Dragon Claw, but Arlo didn't care. "You did it!" he exclaimed, with a wide grin on his face.

The Manectric flew back and landed on the ground panting. Quickly, Arlo tossed a Pokeball at it. The ball absorbed the Manectric and shook once, then twice, then three times before the button glowed green.

Arlo approached the Pokeball and picked it up. "Welcome to the team, Manectric," he said, then turned to Duraludon.

"That was amazing!" Arlo announced, "You did such a good job!"

Duraludon avoided Arlo's gaze as if it was trying to hide its emotions, but Arlo knew that Duraludon, even if it was still somewhat disobedient, began to warm up to him. Soon enough, they will become the best of friends.

"Duraludon, return!" Arlo called, sticking its Pokeball out with his arm. The Pokemon went back into it in a red glow. Arlo then turned towards the towering structures of the city, ready for his fifth gym battle.

When Arlo made it to the big city, he started wandering around, looking for the Pokemon Center. The imposing buildings and constant flow of people made him awestruck. Eventually, he found the Pokemon Center, which operated on the lower floors of a skyscraper.

"Welcome to Nuevolt City's Pokemon Center, how may we help you?" asked Nurse Joy as Arlo entered and approached the front desk.

“I'd like to heal my Pokemon,” Arlo responded.

“Then may you please hand them over for a moment?” requested Nurse Joy.

Arlo nodded his head and took five Pokeballs out of his bag and handed them over to Nurse Joy. She turned around and placed them into the machine behind her and, after a short jingle, took them out and returned them to Arlo.

“Your Pokemon are all healed up,” she shared, “We hope to see you again!”

“Thanks,” Arlo said before leaving the Pokemon Center. Now, he had to find his way to the city’s gym. He hurried around the city, squeezing past the claustrophobic amount of people commuting throughout the city, until he found it: Nuevolt City’s Pokemon Gym.

When Arlo entered the building, he found himself in a room with a grid of panels in front of him. At the back of the room was a set of steel doors that likely hid the gym leader. When he stepped on one of the panels, it lit up, along with the ones that were adjacent to it.

Arlo knew what he had to do. He stepped on the panels until all of them were lit up. When they were, the doors at the back opened, revealing a small room with a battle court and someone waiting in its center.

“Congratulations, you solved my gym puzzle,” the man announced, “Now, let me introduce myself; I’m Ferren, leader of Nuevolt City’s Gym Leader and Electric-type aficionado. Be prepared to get shocked during our battle.”

Ferren walked to one end of the court while Arlo made his way to the other. Then, they each took out a Pokeball. “Go, Servine!” Arlo yelled. The blue-green snake Pokemon appeared from the Pokeball surrounded by sparkles.

“Come on out, Graveler!” Ferren exclaimed. From the Pokeball appeared a massive gray stone with arms, legs, and a confident face. It also had spots of orange rock and darker stones that gave the appearance of hair. “Normally, Graveler are Rock- and Ground-type,” Ferren explained, “However, Graveler from Alola, such as this one, are Rock- and Electric-type instead.”

Arlo gave a slight smirk, since now he knew that the Graveler was still weak to Servine’s Grass-type attacks.

“Now, Graveler, strike that Servine with Thunder Punch,” Ferren commanded. The Rock Pokemon lugged itself towards Arlo’s Pokemon, with one of its fists pulled back.

Arlo waited until the Graveler got close to Servine. “Now dodge, Servine,” Arlo called out, “then strangle it with Vine Whip.” Servine moved out of the way just in time, and Graveler’s fist crashed into the ground. Servine followed up by unleashing a pair of vines from its neck and grabbing the Graveler with them.

“Servine, finish it with Magical Leaf,” Arlo declared. Servine focused some of its energy and let it out as a barrage of leaves, buffeting the Graveler. Servine let go of the Graveler, which stumbled onto its side.

“Graveler, return,” Ferren exclaimed. The large Pokemon returned to its Pokeball. “That was great maneuvering, but are you ready for this?” Ferren quickly pulled out another Pokeball. “Now, Arctozolt!”

Ferren’s second Pokemon came out of its Pokeball. It was an awkward-looking Pokemon, with a small, yellow head, neck, and arms. Its body, by contrast, was bulky and blue, with a tail and legs that looked more like fins, so it probably was very slow on land. It appeared to have a cold as well, suggesting it was Ice-type.

“Be careful, Servine,” Arlo called out, “and use Vine Whip.”

Servine sent out its vines again, and lashed them towards Arctozolt.

“Arctozolt, bite down on those vines,” Ferren ordered, with the awkward-looking Pokemon managing to grab one of Servine’s vines. “Now, pull it in and use Ice Fang!” The Arctozolt whisked Servine towards its jaws, and it bit down hard with a chilling breath that Arlo was able to feel from across the room. When the Arctozolt let go, Servine fell limp onto the ground.

“Servine!” Arlo panicked. “Return!”

As Servine went back into its Pokeball, Arlo already had another pulled out. “Go, Litleo!” he announced, and the small lion Pokemon came out.

“Now, use Ember,” Arlo ordered. Litleo hurled out a small, swift fireball. The opposing Arctozolt stumbled, trying to dodge the attack, but it landed squarely in the Pokemon’s chest, a critical hit. The Arctozolt collapsed onto the ground, fainted.

“Come back, Arctozolt,” Ferren stated. “I’m impressed,” he admitted as he switched Pokemon, “You got me down to my last Pokemon, but this isn’t over yet. Kilowattrel, it’s all up to you!”

The Pokemon that Ferren sent out was a large, black bird with a yellow belly and wings along with a smug expression. It circled and circled around Litleo like a tornado, and Arlo got slightly dizzy trying to keep an eye on it.

“Litleo,” Arlo called out, “use Ember.” Litleo tried to hit the Kilowattrel with the fireball, but it was too fast and easily avoided the attack.

“Kilowattrel,” Ferren shouted “keep this up and use Charge!” The large bird Pokemon cawed, and static electricity started to flicker all around its body. Arlo wasn’t sure if he should keep Litleo in; the Lion Cub Pokemon was practically a sitting Ducklett.

“Litleo, that’s enough,” Arlo decided, and Litleo returned to its Pokeball. He swapped out the Pokeball with a different one. “I guess it’s time we fought together. Go, Manectric!”

The blue and yellow dog Pokemon popped out of its Pokeball and immediately locked its gaze onto the opposing Kilowattrel, keeping its eyes on the extremely fast flyer. The Kilowattrel called out again, and its body was almost engulfed in electricity.

“Alright, Kilowattrel,” Ferren announced, “let’s shock ‘em with Thunderbolt.” The bird Pokemon harnessed all of its electricity into its beak and cawed, releasing a massive bolt of lightning that crashed directly onto Manectric and engulfed it in a cloud of smoke.

“Manectric!” Arlo cried out. He readied its Pokemon, prepared to call it back, when the smoke started to clear. Within the smoke was Manectric, practically unchanged, and it had a strong electric aura surrounding it.

“Lightning Rod!” Ferren noted with shock of his own, “The Electric-type move from my Kilowattrel must’ve powered it up instead of weakening it.”

Arlo was stunned at first, but quickly used the situation to his advantage. “Manectric, use Discharge!” he exclaimed, and the Discharge Pokemon lived up to its category and emitted a massive electromagnetic wave that caught the Kilowattrel and quickly grounded it.

“Now, use Ice Fang!” Arlo instructed, and Manectric landed a chilling bite onto the bird Pokemon before it could dodge the attack, causing it to fall to the ground.

“Kilowattrel, let’s rest up!” Ferren stated, and Kilowattrel returned to its Pokeball. He then turned to face Arlo, who ran up to Manectric.

“That was some nice battling there,” Ferren admitted, “You even managed to shock me with some of your calls, and for that, you deserve this Ion Badge.” He extended out his hand, with the badge in his palm.

Arlo accepted the badge and turned to face Manectric. “That was amazing!” he announced before hugging Manectric, “You’re amazing, Manectric.”

“I have to agree on that,” Ferren said. “By the way, how did you obtain this Manectric?”

“I caught it right before I arrived at Nuevolt City,” Arlo admitted.

“So it’s as I thought…” Ferren muttered.

“What do you mean?” Arlo asked.

“Well, we recently stopped a Pokemon breeding program run by this group that called themselves Team Paradox,” Ferren explained. “They were trying to breed Pokemon very skilled in battling. When we stopped them, we freed all

of the Pokemon and confiscated all of the battle items in the facility, including this.”

He pulled out a small, round stone from his pocket that was yellow with a red and blue swirl inside of it. “I believe that your Manectric was from one of these facilities,” Ferren revealed, “and they probably intended to Mega-evolve it using this Manectite. However, you don’t seem like a bad kid, and you’re definitely a promising trainer, so why don’t you take it?”

Arlo hesitantly took it. “But I don’t have a Key Stone,” he revealed.

“That’s fine,” Ferren stated, “you can have this, too.”

He handed Arlo a black armband with a pearl-like stone set into it. “It’s a Mega Ring,” Ferren told Arlo, “That stone on it is a Key Stone. With it, you should be able to Mega-evolve your Manectric.”

“That’s great!” Arlo exclaimed. He then turned towards Manectric and gave it the Manectite. “You heard him; you’re gonna be able to Mega-evolve!”

Manectric let out an approving bark before Arlo called it back into its Pokeball. He looked back at Ferren. “Thank you for the gifts,” he said gratefully.

“Don’t worry about it,” Ferren responded, “I know you’ll make good use on it. And good luck with the rest of the gym challenge.”

“Thank you,” Arlo said back before he began making his way towards the next gym.

Chapter 10: 6th Gym Leader

Author: TURTLEEEEEE

Date Published: 18/2/25

Editor’s note: original title is “Forums gym challenge battle (Gym 4 (Dragon))”, consider this the 6th gym.

Arlo (Main character)'s pokemon: Shiny servine, shiny pawmi, litleo, duraludon, and mega manectric.

Gym leader's pokemon: Drakloak, Vibrava, Tsatsughiri, and Shiny Tyrantrum

The gym leader sends out Drakloak first, while Arlo sends out pawmi. Pawmi tries to get around Drakloak with its's speed, but Drakloak stuns it and then Knocks it out. Then Arlo sends out duraludon. Duraludon takes out drakloak with a single dragon pulse. The gym leader sends out Vibrava next, while Arlo switches to servine. Vibrava flies up high, but servine knocks it down with a razer leave, then finishes it with a leaf blade. Arlo then confidentially switches to litleo, not knowing that tsatsughiri was coming out next. Tsatsughiri wipes it out with a single surf. Then duraludon comes out, and tsaughiri uses surf

again. Duraludon floats, but then tsatsghiti takes the water away, and duraludon falls. It hits the ground with a CRASH, and then tsatsughiri finishes it with a dragon pulse. Arlo then sends out manectric, which easily knocks tsatsughiri out with a discharge. Then the gym leader ends out Tyrantrum. It's shiny blue color glistens in the light. You can see sparkles emitting from it. Arlo mega evolves manectric, and uses thunder. It hits Tyrantrum, but doesn't knock it out. Tyrantrum then knocks manectric out with outrage. Arlo sends out servine, and uses leaf blade while Tyrantrum is still confused. Tyrantrum seems like it will fall over any second, knocked out. As a last resort, the gym leader uses stall tactics, with rock head-head smash. Servine gets hit a couple time, but then Tyrantrum hits the wall and gets a part of it's head stuck in the wall. Servine then comes in and uses leaf blade to knock it out.

Chapter 11: 7th Gym Leader

Author: NoahLaprasForum

Date Published: 10/3/25

Arlo woke up. He yawned and rolled out of bed. That felt less nice. "Ouch..." His alarm had gone off an hour ago, but he had had a rough night yesterday on his way to the 7th Gym, where Gym Leader Noah was in charge. He stumbled to the bathroom, sighed because of his bags under his eyes and started brushing his teeth slowly. "Pawmi!" Pawmi jumped up happily at Arlo. He lost his balance and fell hard with his head against the glass wall of his hotel shower. He sighed again, but he did pet Pawmi's head lovingly.

After he had gotten ready, he had taken his backpack and Pokémon and was on his way. It was only a 5-minute walk, so it wasn't far away. There he saw the enormous Gym building rising up into the sky. He went inside. There he saw all the people who worked for the Gym walking back and forth. He walked to the counter. "Hey, I'm here for the Gym battle later!" Arlo said. "Ah ok! I'll get Noah." The woman behind the counter stood up and walked away. Arlo waited impatiently at the door. There he saw Noah approaching, busy talking to the woman. When they reached him, Noah introduced himself. "Hi, I'm Noah! You're Arlo right? I've heard from my fellow Gym Leaders that you've got a lot in you! Come on in!" Arlo walked with Noah to a large field. "Okay, get ready Arlo!" A Rotom drone flew towards Arlo and Noah. "Bleep! Each trainer is allowed to use 4 Pokémon. Each trainer is allowed to Gigantamax, Dynamax, Mega Evolve, Terastallize, or use a Z-move once. Will both opponents reveal their Pokémon? 3... 2... 1... Go!"

A shiny Annihilape shot out of Noah's Pokéball. Its shine was so breathtaking that it nearly blinded Arlo. Arlo chose Pawmi as his first Pokémon. "Pawmi, I

choose you!" Noah went straight in with a powerful Double Kick. Annihilape jumped at Pawmi and gave him a good thrashing. Pawmi was bothered by it, but immediately went on the defensive. "Pawmi, use Fast Attack!" Pawmi ran up the wall and jumped on top of Annihilape. It started to thrash and dodged. "Annihilape, use Rage Fist!" This time from a distance, Annihilape shot a good punch at Pawmi. Pawmi didn't pay attention and was so startled that he was knocked out. "Pawmi, return." Arlo sighed. "Okay, I choose you, Duraladon!" Duraladon jumped out of his Pokéball with a cry and was ready for battle. Noah was also ready. "Annihilape, do Cross Chop!" Annihilape hopped towards Duraladon in a zigzag. "Duraladon, dodge!" But it was too late. Duraladon was badly damaged. Noah's Annihilape was far too powerful! Noah saw it too and scowled. He asked the Rotom drone for a little Time Out. The Rotom drone agreed and Noah walked over to Arlo. "Arlo, I have something that might be useful to you." He started digging around in his pocket and eventually found a Dynamax band. Arlo's jaw dropped. "With this you can Dynamax Duraladon. And if you train enough; but that's not for now; you'll eventually be able to Gigantamax it.

When the Time Out was over, Arlo and Duraladon, and Noah and Annihilape jumped back into place. Arlo was too curious and touched his Dynamax band inquisitively. Suddenly, his Pokéball started to vibrate. He looked at it and realized that Duraladon was inside! Suddenly, the Pokéball started to change color and grow. Arlo thought something was wrong and threw the Pokéball away. Out jumped Duraladon. Only fifty times bigger than normal. Arlo's jaw dropped again. Noah was overjoyed. "You have successfully DYNAMAXED! You have successfully DYNAMAXED!" Arlo, overwhelmed by his success, wanted to really try out his new power. "DURALADON, USE MAX STEELSPIKE!" Duraladon started to rumble and move, gathering so much power that Arlo could not see for a moment. When the attack was over, Arlo looked at the field. Duraladon had shrunk back to its normal size and was lying unconscious on the ground along with Annihilape. "Pokémon using a Max Move for the first time put all their energy into it. Unbelievable!" Noah shouted. They both returned their Pokémon, and Arlo chose Manetric. Noah now went for a powerful Passimian. "Passimian, do Scary Face!" Manetric dodged and fired a powerful Thunderbolt. Passimian was hit and had scratches on one eye. He didn't look very strong anymore. "Can you go on, Passimian?" Noah asked. The Teamwork Pokémon nodded to Noah and used Bulk Up. Manetric was unaffected and used his favorite move again; Thunderbolt. Passimian was down.

Noah chose his third Pokémon; Conkeldurr. This Conkeldurr had a great move that was also very special for Mythical and Legendary Pokémon. He knew Superpower. Noah wanted to show that off and had his Conkeldurr use Superpower. Of course, that didn't appeal to Manetric at all. In no time at all,

it was time for Arlo's last Pokémon: Servine. This one was shiny. "Oh my god! Do you have a Shiny Servine?? So cool!!" Noah was completely obsessed with Servine. That worked to his disadvantage, because Conkeldurr was now immediately eliminated. Noah was very casual about it. "Oh never mind. Now I want to show pure power." He grinned evilly. "LUCARIO I CHOOSE YOU!!! MEGA EVOLVE!!!" In front of Arlo stood a gigantic Mega evolved shiny Lucario. Arlo's mouth fell open so wide that Servine had to hold him up. "SHINY AGAINST SHINY!!!" Noah shouted. "MEGA LUCARIO, DO AURA SPHERE!" Servine had no strength left, he was still standing, but not for much longer. But then Servine started to shine.

Servine began to change, grow and shine! HE WAS EVOLVING! Suddenly, in front of Arlo stood a giant, shiny Serperior! "SERPERIOR, USE MEGA DRAIN!!!"

Arlo had won. Noah was now the one who stood there with his mouth open. "Bu... Wait... But... Oh My GOD!" Noah ran up to Arlo and flew around his neck. He thrust a Pokéball into Arlo's hands. Arlo opened it and out jumped the shiny Lucario. He jumped up to Noah. "No Lucario, this is your new owner." Lucario looked back and nodded approvingly at Arlo. His 5th Pokémon was in.

Chapter 12: 8th Gym Leader

Author: Tacolaser

Date Published: 12/3/25

"Duraludon, use Max Steelspike!" cried Arlo. He was in a Max Raid Den with his Duraludon, learning to use his Dynamax Band. As usual, Duraludon ignored Arlo completely. Energy began to gather, and Arlo was blown out of the den.

This had been going on for the past week. Arlo tried to train his Duraludon, but half the time, Duraludon would ignore Arlo's commands. Finally, Arlo decided that he was running out of time to challenge the next gym leader. He would have to defeat the next gym without his Duraludon.

As Arlo continued on his path, he saw a familiar face. It was Harley, a trainer Arlo had met at the Fire Gym.

"Hi, Harley. How are you doing?" Arlo asked.

"Good. I've been doing well ever since you helped me out. I'm on my way to the sixth gym. How are you?"

"Pretty good. I'm just about to go out and challenge the last gym leader."

"Really? That's awesome!" Harley said.

"I know. I'm really excited, but I'm also kind of worried."

"How come?"

"My Duraludon won't listen to me. It just does whatever it wants. It's too bad because I had been hoping to Dynamax it during the gym battle."

"Hmm…" Harley considered, "I don't know how to help with your Duraludon, but I might know a thing or two about Dynamaxing. I've been collecting the ingredients for Max Soup. It's a family recipe. I can make some for you. One bowl and your Duraludon will be able to Gigantamax."

"I'd be willing to try that," Arlo told him although he was secretly skeptical that it would have any effect.

"Okay. I'll get started then." Harley immediately started to set down his cooking supplies.

Arlo spent the next couple hours exploring the surrounding area. Soon enough, Harley called, "It's ready!" Harley held out a bowl of glowing red liquid. "Drink up!"

Arlo released Duraludon from its Pokeball. Duraludon took the soup and greedily slurped it up.

"I made some for us too, if you want it," Harley told his friend.

"Sure," Arlo replied. The soup tasted good. Arlo could almost feel the power welling up inside of him. After they finished eating, Arlo and Harley pitched their tents. The next day, they each went their separate ways.

Arlo considered testing to see if Harley's Max Soup really worked. However, Arlo ultimately decided that he didn't want to waste any more time getting to the next gym.

Soon enough, Arlo made it to the last town where he could find a gym. It was vibrant and full of people. Standing proudly in the town square was a giant arena with a Pokeball logo at the top. It was the gym. Arlo went inside to see battlefield. It was sleek with a futuristic design. In this building Arlo would find the most powerful trainer he had faced so far. This gym leader was known for his unbearable strength. Across the battlefield, Arlo saw a man sitting criss cross on the ground while playing a game on his Nintendo.

"I'm here to challenge you," Arlo said.

"One second," the man replied, "I've almost beat this level."

They sat there in silence for a few minutes. Arlo was beginning to wonder if gym leader was ever going to finish. "I'm sorry, but I really want to-"

"Yes! New high score!" the man cried, "I'm sorry. What did you want?"

"I'm here to challenge your gym. You're the gym leader, right?" Arlo asked.

"I don't know," he replied.

"You don't know if you're the gym leader."

"I don't pay much attention to how this whole 'Pokemon League' thing works. I just battle whichever trainers come in here and give them a badge."

"It sounds like you're the gym leader."

The man considers this for a moment. "Now that I think about, I'm fairly certain that I am the gym leader. My name's Randall, what's your's?"

"Arlo,"

"Nice to meet you, Argo. Let's battle!"

Arlo took his place on the battlefield. "Litleo, I choose you!"

"Quagsire, use Hydro Pump!" shouted Randall. Nothing happened.

"You have to throw your Pokeball first," Arlo explained.

"Oh, right. Go, Quagsire! Use Hydro Pump!" This time Quagsire came onto the battlefield. It shot forth an enormous blast of water. Litleo barley managed to dodge in time.

"Litleo, use Noble Roar!" Arlo loved this move because it greatly weakened the opposing Pokemon. Remarkably, Quagsire seemed unaffected.

"Quagsire's ability, Unaware," said Randall, "It won't even notice a move like that. Quagsire, use Liquidation!"

Quagsire slammed into Litleo. Arlo's Pokemon was weak against water types, he had to do something. "Litleo, use Yawn!"

Quagsire stumbled, struggling for consciousness. It let out one more Hydro Pump before falling asleep. The attack landed true, and it hit Litleo with full force. It could no longer battle.

"Pawmi, I choose you!" Arlo let out his electric companion, "Use Super Fang!"

Quagsire took the attack, unable to get out of the way. Randall smirked, "Quagsire, use Hydro Pump!" Randall then remembered that Quagsire was asleep. "Quagsire, use Sleep Talk!" Quagsire stood up without waking up. It smashed its entire body straight into Pawmi.

Pawmi was badly damaged. Quagsire had used High Horsepower. "Pawmi, use Crunch!" The Mouse Pokemon summoned the power of darkness to bite into its foe. Both Quagsire and Pawmi were now hurt. It was clear that neither of them could take another attack. Quagsire began to use Sleep Talk. At the same time, Pawmi used Quick Attack. Pawmi's move made contact first, and Quagsire fainted.

"You did it, Pawmi!" Arlo shouted. Blue light began to wreath Pawmi. It was evolving! Pawmi was no longer a Pawmi. It was now Pawmo!

"Good job, Argo," Randall said, "It's been a while since I saw a Pokemon evolve mid-battle. Go, Carracosta!"

A giant turtle-like Pokemon towered above Pawmo. Arlo knew he had to act fast. "Pawmo, use Wild Charge!" Pawmo hurtled towards Carracosta, dealing a decent amount of damage. However, in his haste, Arlo forgot that Wild Charge deals recoil damage. Pawmo was rendered unable to battle. Arlo was frustrated at his mistake, but he wouldn't let it stop him. "Go, Serperior!"

"Carracosta, use Meteor Beam!" said the gym leader. Meteors began to fall from the sky, landing squarely on Serperior.

"Use Vine Whip to stop the meteors!" Serperior reached up and grabbed the rocks, stopping them from hurting it. Serperior picked up one of the asteroids and threw it directly at Carracosta.

Carracosta confidently sliced the meteor in half using Aqua Tail. It then launched a ray of dazzling energy at Serperior with Hyper Beam. Serperior was knocked back, badly hurt.

"Serperior, use Mega Drain!" Arlo told his Pokemon. Serperior absorbed Carracosta's energy. In exchange, Serperior healed itself some. Arlo then noticed that Hyper Beam had stunned Carracosta. "Now's our chance! Use Leaf Blade!" The move was super effective, and Carracosta fainted.

Arlo waited a long time for Randall to choose his next Pokemon. That's when Arlo realized that Randall had somehow fallen asleep while standing up. "Huh?!" Randall woke with a start. "You're still here? Okay, then," Randall sent out his third Pokemon, Toxapex. "This has been fun, but no one gets past Toxapex. Use Poison Jab."

Toxepex stabbed Serperior with exceptional force. The Regal Pokemon collapsed. "Serperior, return. Manectric, I choose you!" Arlo held up his Key Stone and Mega Evolved. "Use Thunderbolt!"

Streams of electricity arced down onto Toxapex, but at the last second, it used Baneful Bunker to deflect the attack. "Use Toxic!" Toxapex shot a glob of purple substance at Manectric, poisoning Arlo's Pokemon.

"Use Thunderbolt again," said Arlo, desperate to win the battle before Manectric succumbed to the poison, but Toxapex simply used Baneful Bunker once more. Arlo took a deep breath, careful not to make a hasty decision. "Use Charge," he told Manectric. Manectric began grow more powerful. In addition, Manectric managed to overcome the poison, so Arlo wouldn't worry. "Now use Discharge!" Manectric released cascades of lightning all around itself. Toxapex couldn't protect itself quickly enough.

"Use Poison Jab!" Toxapex tried to hit Manectric, but it just barely missed.

"Thunderbolt!" Arlo commanded. Manectric attacked once more, devastating Randall's Toxapex.

Randall looked impressed. "Nice job, Argo. Most challengers never get this far. I believe that it's time for me to bring out my trump card. Go, Magikarp!"

The Fish Pokemon flopped around pathetically, not having any water to swim in. However, Arlo had learned not to underestimate his opponents. This was most likely some kind of trick. "Brace yourself, Manectric."

Randall put on a smug grin. "Magikarp, use Spash!" Magikarp flailed helplessly to no effect.

Arlo didn't fully understand what was going, but he wouldn't let his guard down.

"Magikarp, use Spash again!" Randall told it. Magikarp splashed slightly harder this time.

Arlo was thoroughly confused. What was happening?

"Magikarp, more splashing!"

Arlo finally decided that clearly nothing was going to happen. "Manectric, use Ice Fang!" Then, all of a sudden, Magikarp splashed powerfully against the floor again, and the ground began to shake. It knocked Manectric out before its attack even made contact.

Although it looked like Splash, Arlo could tell that Magikarp had actually just used Earthquake. It was super effective against his Manectric. "Magikarp isn't able to learn that move!" Arlo called to Randall.

"Normally, yes," explained Randall, "But I have spent years cultivating my relationship to Magikarp, understanding every aspect of its nature on a primal level. I no longer know where I end, and the Magikarp begins. In this way, I have achieved power beyond that of most living beings. FACE ME IF YOU DARE, MORTAL!"

Arlo was in a bad situation. He only had one Pokemon left, and it was at a disadvantage against Magikarp's Earthquake. Arlo lifted his Pokeball and allowed it to be filled with energy from his band. "Duraludon, I choose you!" He let out Duraludon and stared up in shock. It had Gigantamaxed! It must have been Harley's Max Soup. "Duraludon, use Max Steelspike!" Duraludon did as Arlo asked, but it obviously pulled its punch in an effort to annoy him.

"Not bad, Arlo," Randall told him, "But you're not the only one who can Dynamax," Randall pulled his Magikarp back into its Pokeball, and revealed a Dynamax Band on his wrist, "How about we have some real fun?" The Magikarp grew to massive proportions. This was the most powerful Pokemon Arlo had yet to face. "Magikarp, use Max Geyser!"

An enormous plume of water bubbled up beneath Duraludon. Duraludon got hit, but it didn't look too injured. However, it soon began to rain, increasing the power of Water type attacks. Randall had effectively negated Duraludon's resistance to water. "Duraludon, use G-Max Depletion!" Arlo told his Pokemon. Instead, Duraludon pointedly ignored him. Magikarp took the opportunity to shoot at Duraludon with Max Strike. "Block it with Max Guard!" Arlo cried pointlessly. Duraludon intentionally turned its back, letting itself take damage. It was being more ornery than usual.

"Max Quake!" shouted Randall. The earth crumbled beneath Duraludon. If Arlo couldn't get his Pokemon to fight, he would lose the battle.

"Duraludon," Arlo pleaded, "Please help me." The Alloy Pokemon looked its trainer in the eye and saw that this was important to Arlo. An unspoken understanding passed between them. More confident now, Arlo said, "Duraludon, use G-Max Depletion!" A tempest of force shot through the battlefield straight at Magikarp. It literally sucked the strength out of the opposing Pokemon and rendered Magikarp unable to use Max Quake.

Without missing a beat Randall commanded, "Magikarp, use Max Geyser!" The water burst forth once more, but this time Duraludon blocked it without even being asked.

"Duraludon, use Max Steelspike!' Duraludon put all of its strength into its attack. Magikarp tried to stop it with Max Guard but acted a second too late.

"Use Max Strike!" shouted Randall.

"Use G-Max Depletion!" Arlo said at the same time.

The two attacks met in the center of the battlefield. Each Pokemon tried to overpower the other. It was so bright that Arlo had to look away. When the dust settled, both Pokemon laid on the ground in their ordinary forms. Duraludon was standing while Magikarp was unconscious. Arlo had won!

"Thank you, Duraludon!" Arlo cried, "I couldn't have done it without you!" It would take time for Arlo and Duraludon to completely finish building trust, but right now, Arlo knew that he could count his partner in a battle. "You deserve a rest. Duraludon, return." Arlo brought Duraludon back to its Pokeball.

"Wow," Randall said, "I can't believe you beat my Magikarp. It is my honor to grant you the Oceanic Badge."

Arlo held up his badge proudly. He had defeated every gym leader. He was now on his way to challenge the Elite Four. "Thank you for everything," said Arlo.

"Hmm," replied Randall, who had already gone back to playing video games.

Victory Road Chapter 0: The Road To Victory

Author: Voltareon2012

Date Published: 24/3/25

Arlo walked the path to Victory Road with Pawmo following at his side, the wind nipping at both of them. *Should've brought a thicker jacket,* he thought as Pawmo ran off. Pawmo seemed determined to evolve into Pawmot as fast as possible and had been running around ever since their final gym battle against Randall and his Magikarp. He also took every excuse to battle and would take on the wild pokémon on the road. As Arlo watched rap up a battle against a Rookidee, he noticed Pawmo begin to shudder. Pawmo then shone brilliantly and, after Arlo could see again (It is not recommended to watch a shiny pokémon evolve without sunglasses on) there stood an energetic Pawmot!

"Alright, Pawmot!" Arlo exclaimed, exited to see his friend evolve. After a high five, they walked straight to the gate to victory road.

"You can only pass this point if you have all eight badges or are authorized otherwise!" The man at the gate looked at Arlo, noticing the badges he had pinned to his jacket. "Ah. Go right ahead, then."

As Arlo began to walk up the mountain, someone called his name. "Arlo!" His friend, Jax, was running up to him.

"Hey Jax!" Arlo called back. "I haven't seen you since-"

"We have to battle," Jax interrupted, to Arlo's surprise.

"That's usually my line," Arlo joked, but Jax's seriousness stayed, so he agreed and picked a good spot for a battle.

The rivals tossed their pokèballs, and Arlo had a suspicion that this would be his hardest battle yet.

"You've got this, Pawmot!" "Take them down, Gholdengo!" The two pokémon crashed onto the ground, ready for a battle. Arlo was impressed with his friend's incredibly rare pokémon. You had to collect a thousand of Gimminghoul's coins to evolve the pokémon. However, his head stayed in the battle. "Pawmot, Thunder Punch!" Pawmot swung his electrified fist at Gholdengo, which it swiftly dodged and followed with a strong Shadow Ball at Jax's command. "Pawmot, Double Shock!" Arlo tried, knowing he'd need loads of damage to take down the golden pokémon before being taken down. Pawmot pounded his fists together, then slammed them into Gholdengo. The Coin Entity just grinned, arms crossed.

“Gholdengo, Make It Rain!” Jax yelled, and Pawmot was buried in an overwhelming amount of cash and was unable to battle.

“Go, Litleo!” Arlo sent the Lion Cub pokémon into battle. “Noble Roar!” Gholdengo fired off a barrage of coins again, completely unintimidated. It was even stronger than before. It had used Nasty Plot after being hit by Pawmot, and Good as Gold had prevented Noble Roar from having any effect. Litleo sent his Flamethrower at Gholdengo, but it avoided the attack. Litleo roared in anger. As he roared, light-blue wisps began to envelop Litleo, and his roar grew deeper. Soon, before them stood the kingly Pyroar.

“Fire Blast!” Arlo called to his newly evolved friend, and the Royal Pokémon’s attack swiftly defeated Gholdengo.

Jax’s next pokémon was Tyranitar, who promptly used a Rock Slide attack to defeat Pyroar. Arlo sent Manectric into battle, and both trainers instinctively put their Key Stones up for Mega Evolution. Mega Manectric clashed with Mega Tyranitar. The sandstorm raged from Tyranitar as the battle played out. Manectric dodged attacks with speed nearing Mach one, and Tyranitar raged with a beast’s anger. The battle wore both pokémon and trainer down, and in the end, both Megas collapsed. Arlo panted for breath, but the battle wasn’t over. “Lucario!” “Raichu!” Arlo’s shiny Lucario roared. Raichu sparked some electricity from his cheeks. Jax called first: “Volt Tackle!” Raichu charged up with electricity and threw itself at Lucario, dealing massive damage. Lucario responded with Focus Blast at Arlo’s command. Raichu swept Iron Tail at the Aura Pokémon, lowering his defense, and making him flinch, leaving an opening for another Volt Tackle. Arlo upped Lucario’s defenses with Iron Defense and used Extreme Speed. Raichu soon took himself out with the recoil of Volt Tackle. Tangrowth was then sent to battle. Jax tried to make a healing strategy, but the Vine pokémon couldn’t take Lucario’s overwhelming amount of power.

Jax then decided to change the rules a bit. He threw in both Incineroar and his first partner, Blastoise. The duo swiftly took down Lucario.

“What was that about?” Arlo yelled, but Jax seemed determined not to listen. Arlo grit his teeth and sent out his last two pokémon into battle, his first partner, Serperior, and Duraludon.

Jax returned Blastoise to his pokéball, only to have it grow enormous with Dynamax energy, and Gigantamax Blastoise loomed above the pokémon on the field. It was clear that both Mega Evolving and Dynamaxing in one battle was taking a toll on Jax. His legs shook, but he stubbornly remained in the battle. Arlo decided to match his rival, returning Duraludon and Gigantamaxing as well. Jax wasted no time commanding his pokémon, even if his voice was shaking. “Max Steelspike! Fire Blast!” Arlo matched his offensive with a Max Wyrmwind and Leaf Storm. Jax followed with the same attacks again, this time both targeted at Duraludon. Duraludon barely took the attacks. He fired G-Max Depletion: just enough to knock out Incineroar.

But he left himself open to Blastoise’s final max move: G-Max Cannonade. There was a sound like an explosion as Duraludon fainted and returned to his pokéball. Blastoise shrunk to normal size. The only two pokémon left were the two the rivals chose at the beginning of their journey. Both trainer screamed their attack.

“LEAF STORM!!!”

“FLASH CANNON!!!”

The attacks met their target. Blastoise and Serperior still stood. Blastoise buckled. The turtle-like pokémon collapsed and returned. Jax fell to his knees. Arlo panted for breath, then turned to Jax.

“Are you alright?” Arlo asked his friend. Jax looked up and smiled. “Yeah, I’m alright. And you know what else, Arlo? I don’t think I care anymore. I don’t need to beat you. I just needed to get over myself.” He gripped Arlo’s hand and hauled himself up. “I’ll be cheering you on. Now go beat the champion.” He punched Arlo playfully on the arm. “Or else you owe me big time.” Arlo was confused, but glad his friend was cheering him on as he continued up the mountain to the Pokémon League.

Victory Road Chapter 1

Author: clasingla

Date Published: 11/4/25

Arlo finally made it to the league. With one final breathe "I'm here." He walked up to the pokemon center to heal his pokemon one final time before he entered into the room of the first elite 4. He quickly went to the pokemart at the other end of the hall to buy some revives and max potions. After Arlo was finally prepared, he stepped forward through the first door expecting the first elite 4 member. Instead he found an elevator, Arlo realized that his step onto the elevator will signify the peak of his journey and what he worked so hard to get to.

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Arlo finally stepped out of the elevator into a room filled with some old looking computers that looked to be overgrown. Open wires, mixed with sprouting plants were left and right, scrubs growing from outlets, and a single untouched calculator on the floor. "So I guess you've have come to challenge the elite 4, so challenger introduce yourself then I'll introduce myself and explain the rules to you."

Arlo was shocked looked up to see a green haired man, with a mint colored lab coat, and a pair of glasses that had a slightly green tint to them. "I'm Arlo, so you must be the first member of the elite 4, I'm prepared for the battle just

tell me when your ready." Arlo was nervous though he did his best to hide it, if he fails he would have to wait a full year before he could rechallenge the elite 4.

"So Arlo, I see you are a bit nervous, yet if I do recall correctly most people are when they come and face me, yet they have good reason to be, statistically I am predicted to win majority of the fights out of thousands of trainers that have come over time to face the elite 4, less than 50 of them have made it past those doors behind me, and less than half a dozen have been able to have a glimpse of what the champion looks like. At this point in time luck is out of the equation and its now all dependent on pure skill." *cough... cough...* "My name is Florence, no healing during battle, 1 gimmick per battle, and prepare for your calculated defeat."

Arlo first sent out Pyroar, knowing that he had a type advantage against grass type pokemon, "Fire types are scary from time to time, yet my pokemon have been through enough of them to easily defeat them, so I'll choose Breloom." Breloom was moving side to side ready to get into the action. "Breloom use Bullet Seed!" A barrage of seeds started hitting pyroar, Arlo saw that Breloom was trying to come and land another attack from the other side and had a game plan. "Breloom now use Drain Punch!"

"Pyroar use Fire Blast but aim it a little left" Pyroar released a big flame which Breloom never accounted for, Breloom did a flip, followed by a spin to try to avoided the blast though it missed causing Breloom to trip. "Pyroar now use Fire Fang!" Pyroar dashed to the now fallen Breloom and grabbed hold of Breloom's arm with a strong mighty bite. "Now Pyroar finish them off with a Flamethrower."

"Not so fast, Breloom use Sludge Bomb now!!!" the two attacks hit each other making a wave of blinding purple fogging up the battlefield showing only silhouettes of the two pokemon, finally one of them twitched, while the other one was already on the floor. "Breloom you've tried your best now its time to do some serious calculations, Lurantis its time to cut their wires." Pyroar was still weak since it was poisoned from the Sludge Bomb."

"Pyroar are you going to be okay?" Pyroar looked up with a look of confidence, one that showed that it was ready to follow his directions to the end of the world. "Okay Pyroar use Fire Blast directly at the Lurantis." Pyroar charged a blast that felt so hot that it could melt Arlo's hair off. A big smirk appeared on Florence's face and at that moment Arlo knew he made a big mistake.

"Lurantis, use X-Scissor followed by a Leaf Blade." Lurantis cut the Fire Blast into millions specs of ash, and at what looked to Arlo was at mach speeds, A sharp blade hit Pyroar knocking it back and making it fall over dizzy. Lurantis then posed and gave a little bow to then swiftly turn away.

Arlo had great regret in his eyes "Pyroar return you did your best. I trust that you will lead me to victory Lucario. GO!" Lucario came out of the ball. Tts yellow coat of fur was stunning and its look stern as it waited for a command. "Lucario use Aura Sphere! follow that with Meteor Beam!" Lucario released a ball of blue aura as it head right in the direction of Lurantis following its every movement. Florence realized that the chance that Lurantis could beat lucario was 3.12% he knew that he had to prepare the battle field for his next pokemon.

"Lurantis, use Sunny Day." Lurantis charged enough energy that a bright light appeared above them, giving a reminiscences of a sun on a triple digits summer day. After that the blue sphere of aura finally hit Lurantis allowing Lucario to hone in and hit Lurantis with the Meteor Beam. Lurantis gave one final bow before fainting. "Lurantis return, Liligant its time to make this trainer touch some grass." This Liligant was unlike any Liligant that Arlo had seen before, the eyes were pink, the flower was also pink though now smaller, and the legs were longer and looked like flower petals. "Liligant use victory dance, as a showcase of what calculation does." Liligant gave a little dance, afterword it seemed more powerful than it was before.

"Lucario use Close Combat!" Lucario tried using Close Combat but Liligant was to fast Lucario couldn't land an attack.

"Lilligant show them what you got with petal blizzard!" An array of petals started to swarm lucario each doing damage to it. Lucario couldn't move an inch. "Liligant use Energy Ball!" Lucario was again hit with a ball of energy and could do nothing about it. "Now Liligant show the power of a hisuian pokemon and finish that Lucario off with an Axe Kick!" Arlo saw the attack coming and said one last time to Lucario.

"Hey Lucario try to use an Aura Sphere against Liligant. Let's not let one pokemon stop us on our way to victory." With one last burst of energy, Lucario released a blue sphere that honed onto Liligant. The Axe Kick finally made contact with Lucario though at the same time Liligant was hit by a blue sphere one that Lucario put all its aura into. Both pokemon looked weak and in all but a split second both pokemon were on the floor unable to battle. "Go manetric!" Arlo took a deep breath "Time to mega evolve!" the keystone that was on him started to glow along with the Manectite that Manectric had.

"Go Ferrothorn, its time to make a hardrive to victory!" though that is the exact opposite of what happened to Florence's Ferrothorn, Ferrothorn was welcomed by an onslaught of Manectric's Thunder's, Wild Charge's, and Discharge's that it didn't have a single time to attack. After a while Ferrothorn fell to the floor unable to battle after doing absolutly nothing forcing Florence to go to his final pokemon. "Meganium show them the power of a Z-move, Meganium use Bloom Doom" Florence did a little dance charging Meganium with energy. Meganium then released a burst of energy instantly making the mega Manectric faint.

"Manectric return." Arlo knew what pokemon that he wanted to use against the Meganium, one that he trusted since the beginning. "Serperior I trust that the path of victory includes you and me." Serperior came out looking all regal and elegant ready to defeat a worthy opponent. "Serperior use Seed Bomb." Some Big seeds started to hit Meganium weaking it.

"Meganium use Grass Pledge." Serperior was struck hard by this attack. Serperior then jumped up ready for the next command.

"Serperior use Leaf Storm!"

"Meganium counter that with your own Leaf Storm!" the Leaf Storms hit both Serperior and Meganium both started to look very weak. "There is only one way this can end, Meganium finish Serperior off with a Dragon Tail."

"Serperior retaliate and use Leaf Blade." The two attacks hit creating a cloud of dust shielding the view of who won the matchup. After the dust cleared Serperior was left standing while Meganium was knocked out. Arlo had beaten the first elite 4 member he healed up his fainted pokemon, preparing to go to the next room when Florence walked up to him.

"That was a great battle, even though statistically if this was all lucked based you should of loss, what you did proved to me that what got you here was by no coincidence. You are definitely the most promising challenger I've faced, and according to my calculations you may actually have a chance to beat the champion. You may enter the next room."

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"Champion, Team Paradox had becoming a real threat to the safety of the region. I have recently located their whereabouts, and I need you to help gather the strongest trainers so that we can stop whatever malicious thing that they might be planning." …

"Okay I will notify all the gym leaders about the danger and try to get their assistance."

Victory Road Chapter 2

Author: Michael629303

Date Published: 21/4/25

Arlo enters the Ghost Elite Four’s room. He had expected something gloomy and unwelcoming but, instead, it was quite cozy. It was a giant antique library filled with books with Pokémon toys scattered about. Throughout the room I could see ghost type pokemon playing and resting. In the corner of the room there is a little reading nook with a man in a nice suit, oddly similar to a mortician’s, reading. Still surprised that the room felt welcoming, Arlo let the door slam shut. This startled the man in the chair to look up and notice Arlo.

“Oh, welcome” the Elite Four member, setting his book down and getting up said, followed by some younger ghost types and a Sableye, “I was finishing up the book. I’m Bjorn. You must be Arlo, the trainer I’ve heard so much about.” He put out his hand for a handshake. Arlo shook his hand and replied “Yes. I have to say, you have such a unique room! I was expecting a graveyard or a dark room”. Bjorn gave a soft laugh, “You would be surprised by how many people say that! I always found ghost type Pokémon to be misunderstood and feared to the point of being shunned. When I was younger, I had found this Sableye hurt in an alley, being ignored by the people walking by, but I didn’t. I took it in and brought it back to health. Once it was all healed it had decided to become my partner. Since that moment, I have made it my life’s goal to take care of ghost types and find them good homes”. Arlo replied saying, “so that’s what all these Pokémon are”. Bjorn then said, petting the Pokémon, “Yes, now are you ready to battle?”

Arlo pulled out his Pokémon and said yes. Bjorn went to his position and sent out his first Pokémon, a Shedinja. “Lets see how you handle this one” challenged Bjorn. Arlo, thinking that it would be easy, sent out Litleo. Lilteo attempted to Tackle Shedinja but passed right through it, perturbing Arlo. Shedinja then retaliated using shadow ball, summoning a ball of shadow and hitting Litleo. Arlo then told Litleo to use hyper voice thinking the last attack just missed, yet Shedinja still seemed unaffected. Bjorn then told it to use Shadow Claw, dealing more damage to Litleo. Arlo then Arlo used Fire Fang, to his surprise hitting Shedinja, causing it to faint. “Great job”, Bjorn exclaimed, “you hit Shadinja. It nearly immune to all attack but super affective ones. Now let’s see how you handle against my Cursola”. Bjorn throws out his next pokeball and tells it to use ancient power causing Litleo to faint. Arlo then sent out Pawmo. The Cursola then used curse. Arlo told Pawmo to use discharge. The Cursola was just about to faint until it used strength sap, healing back up. Pawmo then used Slam dealing enough damage to faint Cursola. “Nice, but don’t think that’s the last of Cursola” said Bjorn and then sent out Runerigus.

Arlo dismissed what he said because it was already fainted, it couldn’t do anything. He then told Pawmo to use dig, thinking it would prevent damage. Runerigus then used earthquake forcing Pawmo up and stunning it then used mean look. Arlo was about to command Pawmo when it suddenly fainted after not taking any damage. “It fainted because of my Cursola. It has a special ability that causes those that touch to faint later. Very few people notice it” Informed Bjorn. Arlo then sent out Lucario. Runerigus then used Destiny Bond but it didn’t seem to do anything. Lucario attacked with close combat, dealing lots of damage. Runerigus then slashed Lucario with shadow claw. Lucario then delt the finishing blow with force palm but when the attack hit Lucario also fainted. “Destiny Bond, it caused your pokemon to faint when mine did. It fought well though to defeat Runerigus in 2 attack” commented Bjorn.

Arlo then realized that all of Bjorn’s Pokémon have special traits that don’t deal direct damage but still are detrimental. He would have to strike quickly

and pay close attention. Bjorn then sent out Aegislash and Arlo sent out Manectric. immediately Arlo used his Mega Stone and evolved it to Mega Manectric and attacked with Flamethrower. Though it should have been a super affective attack it seemed to only deal base damage. Aegislash then used Iron Head and seemed to change its stance. Manectric then used Electro Ball and Aegislash retaliated with the same attack, but it was stronger. Arlo was thinking it might have been the stance change. Manectric then used ice fang and Aegislash used rest, once again changing stance. Manectric then used Thunder Fang, while Aegislash used Iron Head again to deal the first amount of damage. Using this moment to attack it used Gigi Impact but not before Aegislash used quick attack. Manectric pulled through just long enough to defeat Aegislash but also fainted. “Great job! And successful timing for your attack” Bjorn congratulated, “this is my last Pokémon, good luck and congratulations. Very few trainers every must battle Sableye”.

Instead of throwing a Pokémon the Sableye that he had rescued went into position. Arlo was about to send out Duraludon but thought better of it in case it acted up, instead sent out Serperior. Before Serperior could do anything Sableye Mega Evolved and used Shadow Sneak. Unable to find Sableye, Serperior couldn’t do anything. Then out of nowhere Sableye attacked stunning Serperior. It then used Phantom Force once again disappearing. Serperior was once again unable to do anything. Sableye then once again reappeared and stunned Serperior. Lastly Sableye uses Shadow Ball, knocking out Serperior before it could even land a hit. Arlo then pulled out Duraludon and said, “please obey, you’re my last hope”. To his surprise it nodded. He then threw the ball with confidence that he could defeat Mega Sableye. Sableye used Shadow sneak again but Arlo knew what to expect. He told Duraludon to use Iron Defense and when Sableye reappeared they were ready. Sableye hit but it was weakened and didn’t cause Duraludon to flinch, giving it enough time to use Flash Cannon, which actually caused to Sableye to flinch. This gave Duraludon enough time to deal the final blow, Draco Meteor!

After the dust settled, Sableye had been defeated. “Well done, Arlo! That was a wonderful demonstration of your bond” the beaten Bjorn said, “Since I became a member of the elite four, you are the first to have beaten me so quickly!” He then kneeled and healed Sableye and his other Pokémon. “I hope you are as successful with the rest of the Elite Four as you were with me”.

Victory Road Chapter 3

Author: Hades0918

Date Published: 13/9/25

Arlo walked out the elevator, stepping out into the third floor. The room was dimly lit, with floating orbs of light surrounding the battle field. Arlo stepped to the edge of the field.

"I've been expecting you," echoed a female voice. Stepping out from the other side was a woman with long brown hair that flowed down to the center of her back. She wore a black suit with purple tie. Her black eyes narrowed as she looked at Arlo. "So you're the new up and rising challenger," she asked, her tone low and threatening.

"I am. The name's Arlo," responds the challenger, standing up straighter, his voice carrying confidence. "I'm here to beat you and climb to the top!"

The woman scoffs and rolls her eyes. "Not the first time I've heard that. Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Lila, the one that will yank you from your childish fantasy, right back to this cold reality."

Arlo took a fighting stance and smirked. "Highly doubt it," he says, arrogant, "but I can't wait for you to try!"

Out from somewhere in the room, a judge walks out. "Let me explain the rules," he shouts. "This will be singles. Each trainer gets up to three Pokémon and one gimmick. If one breaks these rules it is instant disqualification! Understand?"

Arlo and Lila nod, readying their PokeBalls. "Good. Then 3! 2! 1! Battle!"

Arlo starts with Pyroar, it growling fiercely upon release. Lila throws out an Armarogue.

"Fire against fire. Funny," she says, but no emotion is shown on her face. "Use Psychic Terrain!"

Armarouge shoots a purple ball at the ground, which expands across the field, covering it in a purple-ish mist.

"Setting something up, huh? Won't let that get far! Use Fire Blast," exclaims Arlo, Pyroar enthusiastically shooting a giant ball of fire at the opposing Pokémon. The Armarouge doesn't move, however, and takes the hit. Arlo chuckles smugly.

"Pathetic," Lila sighs, disappointed. Arlo raises an eyebrow. When the smoke clears he stands there, shocked as the Armarouge is in the same spot, not a single hit mark on it.

"I-I know it's not very effective, but…" Arlo trails, at a loss for words.

"Flash Fire," Lila responds simply. "Fire type attacks do nothing to it, instead increasing its own fire attacks. We won't be using our flames yet, though. Expanding Force!"

Armarouge's eyes lit up purple as it put its arms together, creating a cannon and shot a purple screen that widened as it traveled.

"Dodge it," shouted Arlo, but it was too late. The attack hit Pyroar, knocking it back. It staggered as it stood up.

"Are you alright," Arlo asks, his voice wavering with worry. His concern disappears, however, as Pyroar stands up straight and releases a powerful roar. Arlo smiles proudly. "Great! Let's do this!"

"Are y'all done? We're in a battle," Lila says, looking bored (or annoyed).

Arlo was about to apologize, but Lila didn't give him time. "Psyshock," she commands, throwing her hand out.

Arlo reacts quickly, though. "Noble Roar," he shouts, and Pyroar quickly obeys, letting out a strong, loud roar, lowering Armarouge's attack. Armarouge doesn't flinch, however, and puts its cannon together, blasting purple shards at Pyroar. The weakened attack hits Pyroar directly, and it staggers slightly.

"It's okay," says Arlo, smiling confidently. "We can handle that! Use Hyper Voice then get in close!"

Pyroar wastes no time, letting out a powerful cry, damaging the opposing Armarouge, making it flinch. Pyroar dashes across the battle field, approaching the Armarouge quickly.

"Expanding Force," Lila says, unbothered by the quick advance.

"I don't think so," shouts Arlo. "Crunch!"

Armarouge's eyes begin to glow, but Pyroar leaps the remaining distance, chomping down on the Armarouge. Armarouge stumbled backwards, glowing blue.

"A defense decrease. How unfortunate," Lila stated, showing not a bit of concern for her bad situation.

"We're not done yet," Arlo shouts, excited about the turn of events. "Get up close again!"

Pyroar springs forward with a growl, fangs bared and ready to strike. "Don't let him. Psyshock," commands Lila, and though she doesn't seem worried on the outside, the rush of her words suggest otherwise.

"Quick! Noble Roar," cries Arlo, clenching his fist. Pyroar doesn't stop approaching as it let's out an intimidating roar, decreasing the power of the Psyshock as the Armarouge unleashes it. Pyroar stumbles a little when hit, but it keeps going. "Now," shouts Arlo, his body shaking with excitement, "use Crunch!"

Pyroar bites into Armarouge, causing it to stumble and fall to a knee.

"We've got this," exclaims Arlo, victory inches away from his grasp. "One more Crunch and Armarouge's out! Go!"

Pyroar goes in for the finishing strike, but Lila finds her voice.

"Quick," she cries, her concern etched across her face, worry clear in her voice, "Armor Cannon!"

Armarouge quickly puts its arms together, firing a big ball from its cannon. It hits Pyroar directly in the chest, sending it flying and unconscious. Even though it's not very effective, Flash Fire from earlier and Pyroar's already low health ended it.

With a heavy sigh, Arlo returns Pyroar. "Good job," he mutters to his Pokeball. "Take a good rest." Arlo looks up at Lila and sees her let out a sigh of relief, but she immediately puts her emotionless persona back on.

Arlo sends out his next Pokémon. "Go, Manetric," he shouts. Manetric stamps its paw into the floor, growls, and then let's out a loud, echoing bark. "Let's not waste time! Thunderbolt!"

Manetric howls as it sends a powerful bolt of electricity at the Armarouge. The opposing Pokemon doesn't have time to react as the strike makes direct contact with it, knocking it out.

"Hm," is all she says as she returns her fallen Pokémon. Her face shows no sign of stress as she sends out her next Pokemon; an Alakazam. Not just any Alakazam, though. It has a Mega Stone in its spoon.

Mega Evolution on her second Pokémon? She must be trying to end this quick, Arlo thinks as he looks at his opponent. His eyes go to Manetric, then his Key Stone. *I could Mega Evolve, too, but...* He sighs. *No. I'm going to save it for my last. She can use her gimmick now, making it easier for me in the end.*

"Let's start strong! Thunder," shouts Arlo, wanting to wrap the battle up before the match gets far.

Manetric bared its teeth, growling as electricity sparked from its body. It howled as it blasted a giant bolt at the Alakazam. Lila was unfazed, though, saying "Mirror Coat," with a dead-pan expression.

Alakazam's body glows as it takes the Thunder head-on. It stumbles back, slightly, but still blasts the move back. Manetric has no time to react as it gets hit, howling in agony.

Arlo groans. *Mirror Coat,* he grinds his teeth. *It reflects ranged attacks with equal damage. Manetric only knows ranged though. And when she Mega Evolves...*

"Are you just going to stand there or are you going to attack," Lila asks, glaring at Arlo with pure annoyance.

"You could easily make a move, too," exclaims Arlo, but when she continues to just stare, he sighs. "Fine. Use Charge!"

Manetric snarls aggressively as it glows with energy, sparks occasionally flying off its body. It glows red as its special attack increases.

Lila raises an eyebrow. "You're just quickening your end," she states plainly, but there's a hint of amusement in her voice.

"We can handle our own electricty! Again, use Thunder," shouts Arlo, confident Manetric can handle the upcoming return.

Manetric barks, loud and powerful, as it blasts another large bolt of electricity at the Alakazam, this one thicker and stronger than the last.

"Mirror Coat," Lila commands again. Alakazam took the hit, nearly falling over, but regained its balance and sent it back, sweeping Manetric off its feet. It flipped backwards a couple times but quickly got its footing back, digging its claws into the ground.

Lila watches her Alakazam with concern as it staggers forward, barely catching itself. "We're okay," she says. "Recover."

"Oh no you don't," Arlo shouts as Alakazam begins to glow. "Thunderbolt, quick!."

Manetric strikes Alakazam with lightning, causing it to stop healing. "Prefect! Now use Discharge!"

Alakazam has no time to react as Manetric releases large amounts of electricity from its body, covering the entire battle field, hitting the opposing Pokemon.

Alakazam tumbles backwards, close to falling. "Alright," exclaims Arlo, "wrap it up! Thunder!"

"Psychic followed by Shadow Ball," Lila shouts, her voice high and panicked.

Alakazam quickly steadies itself. Its eyes and spoons glow with power, and it lifts Manetric before it can attack. Alakazam then slams Manetric into the ground, quickly firing a Shadow Ball before Manetric can recover.

Arlo grimaces as he watches Manetric struggle to get up. "Are you okay," he asks, his voice wavering. Manetric barks weakly but stands firmly. Arlo smiles. "Great. Use Thunderbolt!"

"Mirror Coat," Lila commands in response.

As Alakazam sends the bolt back, Arlo tells Manetric to use Charge. Manetric obeys, boosting its stats right before getting hit.

"Why didn't you attempt to dodge," Lila asks, her curiosity apparent.

"Because I knew we couldn't," Arlo says, smirking. "But I knew it could take it, so I wanted our next move to end this. One last time, Thunder!"

Manetric stands tall, howling as it unleashes a ginormous bolt of electricity at Alakazam.

Lila's eyes widen. "Mirror Coat," she yells. Alakazam quickly covers itself in its light, pushing the attack back before collapsing on the ground. Manetric has nowhere to go as the giant bolt comes right back, knocking it out as well. Both trainers return their Pokémon.

She didn't Mega Evolve? Then why did she use Alakazam, Arlo's thinking is interupted by Lila as she asks, "Why didn't you Mega Evolve?"

"I was wondering the same thing about you," Arlo responds, readying his last Pokémon.

"I was saving it for last," Lila replies.

"Same here," Arlo says, smirking, Pokeball in hand.

Each trainer releases their last Pokémon. Arlo's Lucario pops out its ball, its yellow fur sparkling even in the poorly lit room. Lila's Metagross bangs its claw on the ground, coming out ready to fight. Lucario growls back, punching its fists together.

"Yeah, that's the spirit," Arlo exclaims, clenching his fist with determination.

"We matched types again. How ironic," Lila states, but again doesn't actually seem amused.

"So," Arlo raises his wrist, showing his Key Stone, "are we doing this or what?"

Lila pulls out a necklace with a Key Stone on it. "We can. It'll let me end this quick."

"Your arrogance will just make my victory so much better," Alro states, smirking confidently as he taps his Key Stone, connecting to Lucario. Lila follows suit, Mega Evolving Metagross.

"Go! Use Aura Sphere," shouts Arlo, punching his fist out.

Lucario puts its hands together, a giant ball of energy forming quickly between them. It pushes its arms out, sending the powerful orb at the Matagross.

"Shadow Ball, then Meteor Mash," Lila commands, and Metagross immediately takes action, creating and firing a ball of dark energy. The balls collide, causing a cloud of smoke across the field. The sound of metal clanging can be heard, signaling Metagross activating Meteor Mash.

"Counter it with your own Meteor Mash," yells Arlo, his heart racing with excitement as Lucario smashes its fists together and slams into the

Metagross, which crashes into Lucario with equal force. The banging echoes throughout the room. The two Pokémon push each other back, both quickly regaining their balance.

"Nice job," Arlo exclaims, adrenaline rushing through hid body as he feels the excitement from an equally matched opponent. "Now use Bone Rush!"

Lucario extends a bone of energy from its paws, then quickly dashes at Metagross.

"Counter with Metal Claw," shouts Lila, throwing her hand out with small smile forming on her lips.

Metagross waits until Lucario is right on it before swinging, matching each of its opponent's movements with its claws. Their attacks increase in speed, the Pokémon challenging each other, testing their limits. After a while, the two hit each other with so much power it blew them back.

"Don't let up," Arlo exclaims. ""Go in with Close Combat!"

Lucario wastes no time, leaping towards Metagross, fists ready to strike.

"Don't let it get close," Lila yells, her voice shaking with excitement. "Psychic!"

Metagross' eyes glow with power, stopping Lucario with just a few inches to spare. Lucario tries to free itself but fails. Metagross then slams Lucario into the ground.

"Follow up with Meteor Mash," Lila exclaims, her eyes wide as she feels the thrill of the battle.

Metagross claps its arms together, activating its move. The Pokémon then charges at Lucario, who moves at last second.

"Good," Arlo praises. "Now, use Aura Sphere!"

Lucario blasts the ball at Metagross, but the opponent swats it away, causing it to explode. Lucario takes this opportunity to get close.

"That's it! Use Bone Rush," Arlo shouts, hoping to end it here.

"No," Lila cries. "Quick! Metal Claw!"

It was too late, though. Lucario was already onslaughting the Metagross with flurry of bone strikes. Metagross staggers as Lucario finishes its attack.

"We're not out of this yet," Lila shouts. "Psychic!"

Metagross immediately stands, its eyes glowing as it picks its opponent up and flings it across the field. Lucario tries to get up, but stumbled to its knees. "Now Shadow Ball," Lila commands.

Metagross blasts its purple orb at Lucario. Lucario tries to dodge, but fails as it gets hit by the ball. It rolls further across the field, trying to get up.

"Its over," Lila states, all emotion from earlier gone. "Give up."

Arlo looks at Lucario as it struggles to its feet, staggering slightly as it stands. *Should I,* Arlo question. *Lucario is weak, and I don't want to push it to far...* Lucario looks back at Arlo and smiles, clenching its fist determinedly. Arlo smirks.

"No, we're good," he says. "We're gonna finish this!"

"I gave you a chance to back out peacefully," Lila says, her tone cold as a freezer in winter. "Don't throw a fit when we demolish you. Meteor Mash!"

Metagross charges forward, ready to end the match immediately. Lucario doesn't budge. When Metagross is moments away, Arlo shouts, "Now," and Lucario swiftly dodges.

"Use Close Combat," Arlo commands. Metagross, who can't stop due to its momentum, takes Lucario's blows head on. Each Pokémon glows as Lucario deals the final strike, their Mega Evolution disappearing.

Both trainers stand in silence.

"You... won," Lila says as more of a question then a statement, her confusion apparent on her face.

"I won," Arlo echoes, the words sounding llik a foreign concept he just can't understand. But almost immediately, the words click and he rushes to his Lucario, a huge smile on his face as he hugs it. "We won!"

Lucario smiles proudly as Arlo returns it to its ball. While he's recovering his Pokémon, Lila walks up to him. He looks up at her and is surprised to see her usual emotionless expression is replaced by a soft gaze and bitter-sweet smile.

"Good job," she says, her voice gentle. "You did great out there. It's been a long time since I've had a powerful trainer. Even longer since I last enjoyed a battle." She chuckles lightly. "I'm rooting for you," she says, offering Arlo her hand.

Arlo smiles and takes it. After Lila helps him up, he walks to the elevator, waving as the doors shut and goes to the final floor.

Victory Road Chapter 4

Author: MonstaDash

Date Published: 16/6/25

Arlo walked into a dark, seemingly empty room with no trainer in sight.

“I have come to challenge you, show yourself!” said Arlo.

Dead silence. A minute passed until Arlo lost patience.

“Huh, I guess he isn’t here. Hey this is the last call to come out before I move on to the Champion” Arlo said with a smirk on his face.

“Oh but I am right behind you.” Said a mystery man right behind Arlo.

Arlo looked back and jumped in shock, with his heart nearly beating out his chest. The mystery man gave a great chuckle of amusement that reminded Arlo of a menacing Mighteyena. The room was too dark to make out any details, but the mystery man gave a snap of the fingers, and the entire room came to life. The room was in fact a glamorous arena with bleachers filled with an audience loaded with anticipation. In the center of the arena is a Pokémon battle ground. With a slick black semi long hairdo, a black leather jacket with a grey flame decal, and black jeans, stood the final member of the Elite four.

“I got you there, didn’t I!” Said the mystery man with a wide grin on his face.

Arlo, still in shock took a moment to respond, “You scared me half to death!”

The mystery man’s grin only grew wider “Ah but I forgot to introduce myself, my apologies. I am Gerald, the fourth and final member of the prestigious Elite four. It seems we have a real diamond in the rough, haven’t had anyone challenge me formally since the champion strolled past here years ago.”

“So, I guess you’re pretty rusty, huh?” Arlo asked.

“Maybe, but I am truly looking forward to this battle, it has been a long time since a worthy trainer has stepped in this arena! I run a battle coliseum here for the strongest trainers but usually don’t participate because they aren’t Elite four strong, but man a real competitor!” Gerald was fidgeting with his Pokéballs like a schoolboy at a candy store “Man this is gonna be great!” Gerald said with excitement, but he restrained himself ”Alright, well the rules are simple. We will have a double battle, you can only use four Pokémon, no healing, and the last Pokémon standing wins. No Mega Evolution, no Z-moves, no V-max, and no crystallization mumbo jumbo, got that?”

Arlo replied “Yeah, but what if I accidentally send out a 5th Pokémon?”

Gerald’s entire expression changed to a gaze that could make even a Krookodile tremble in fear. “You break any of these rules and you’ll regret it.” A touch of paralysis haunted Arlo until Gerald broke the curse with a loud chuckle. “Don’t worry, I am teasing you. But in all seriousness follow the rules, it would be quite disrespectful. Now, to each of us our corner”

Arlo felt an unusual, almost feral aura about Gerald, as if he was a mad Mightyena that broke out of his Pokéball. He realised that Gerald was going to

be a truly fierce opponent and may possibly be the second strongest trainer in the region.

“Now…” said Gerald with a low voice, as if he is charging up “are you ready to rumble!” Gerald said with a loud screech!

“Come on team, the final hurdle to the Champion” Arlo whispered to himself. A fire light in Arlo’s eyes and yelled “I’ll take you on!”

“Now that’s the fire I want to see in our battle, let’s do this!” yelled Gerald.

Arlo sent out Duraludon and Serperior and Gerald sent out Pangoro and Houndoom. Both seemed to have a similar strategy, have a heavy hitter to take most of the hits and a light hitter to attack the weak points. Single Strike and Rapid Strike, perfect synergy. Pangoro ran towards Duraldon and used Arm Thrust, which Duraldon defected and countered with Dragon Claw. But with Duraldon’s guard open he took Houndoom’s fire fang. Stunned, Houndoom looked like he was charging up Inferno.

“Serperior, use slam” Arlo yelled.

With that command Serperior knocked Houndoom out of the way preventing Duraldon from getting knocked out, but at the same time taking some of the Inferno.

Without a moment to spare, Arlo snapped Duraldon out and said “Duraldon, use flash cannon on the Houndoom!”

With that Duraldon charged up and knocked out the Houndoom. Houndoom was out of commission, but as fast as he fainted a Mightyena came to finish what Houndoom started, taking out Serperior with Sucker Punch. Arlo pulled back Serperior and sent out Pawmot.

The crowd was excited! Gerald gave a grand chuckle “Man this is intense, Pangoro and Mightyena take out the cover!”

Pachamp attacked the Duraldon with low sweep, leaving the Duraldon at a critical state. As Mightyena was gonna follow up with Throat Chop he was knocked out of the way by Pawmot with Thunder Punch.

“Duraldon, come back!” Arlo yelled as he recalled Duraldon to his Pokéball and sent out Pyroar in his place.

“Change of strategy, alright I can dig that, come back here Panchamp” Gerald said as he took back the wounded Pachamp “Let’s do this Absol” Gerald screeched as he sent out Absol.

Both pairs of Pokémon charged at each other, Mightyena anticipated for Pyroar to attack it but made a false judgment missing with Sucker punch, left open for Pawmot’s Thunder Punch knocking it back. Absol followed up with Brutal Swing, knocking back Pawmot leaving the space open for Pyroar and

Absol to duke it out. Pyroar charged forward and Absol followed, with counter after counter, hit after hit, until both Absol and Pyroar fainted.

“Huh, a truly equal battle.” Said Gerald with a serious tone “You don’t see that too often. Well, it’s down to the last two Pokémon, man I am feeling thrilled! Panchamp, you’re back out!”

Pachamp came right out, and with that Arlo sent Duraldon back after the time for recovery.

“Oh man, let’s make this a battle to remember!” yelled Gerald with a smile for the ages.

For a moment Duraldon and Pawmot stood in peace with Panchamp and Mightyena abiding by the peace. Even with the cheers of the crowd it was a silent stage, even the slightest creak could be heard. Despite that, with the snap of Gerald’s fingers the peace was broken and the duo charged towards Duraldon and Pawmot and with that the crowd broke into a fit of excitement! Mightyena changed forward with Bite knocked away by Pawmot with Electro Ball, knocking out Mightyena, to leave Pangoro the opportunity to hit Duraldon with Arm Thrust, knocking out Duraldon. Both Arlo and Gerald retreated their downed Pokémon.

“So, the last two standing. Let’s see who wins!” Gerald said with a wide smile!

“I am with you there! Pawmot, give it your all!” said Arlo.

And with that Pawmot charged forward with Wild Charge, partially blocked by Pangoro. Pangoro then used Low Sweep, knocking Pawmot back and to his feet. The crowd was in shock as a winner was about to be declared. Pangoro used this opportunity to use Hammer Arm but unknowingly to Pangoro, Pawmot was charging Focus Blast.

“Pawmot, use Focus Blast!” Arlo yelled, and with that Pawmot unleashed its power catching Pangoro off guard and knocking him out!

“Pangoro, come back.” Gerald said with a serious expression. There was a lingering silence in the room until Gerald gave a faint laugh which broke into a fit of laughter. “Now that was a battle for the ages! You are truly a strong trainer!” The crowd roared with excitement, now having a craving for more. “Man I think you may give the Champion a run for his money. You may move along to the Champion’s chambers!”

“It was a pleasure battling you!” said Arlo.

“You too, now the Champion awaits!” said Gerald “Oh and make sure to come back for seconds, I would love a rematch!”

And with that Arlo cleared the final member of the Elite four, ready to take on the strongest Trainer in the region!

Alternative Chapter: Victory Road Chapter 3

Author: MonstaDash

Date Published: 16/6/25

Arlo enters the Third Elite Four chamber. He enters a grand room filled with relics of ancient past. There are various exhibits detailing many fossils, one of a root, one of a claw, and one that resembles a skull, but the most fascinating piece has to be the Amber. With its entrancing orange hue, it lures Arlo to take a closer glance at it.

“Fascinating, isn’t it?” Said a woman’s voice. “That piece of Amber predates most of my fossil collection here, it is by far the jewel of my collection.”

Arlo looks behind him to see a mature and composed woman, she has blonde hair and wears a brown vest with a beige shirt with brown cargo pants. “My apologies, I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Makoto Kurusu, but you may call me Makoto. I am the third member of the Elite Four and specialize in Rock type Pokémon, but that is simply due to circumstances. Follow me to the arena, I can give you a detailed tour after our battle.”

Arlo follows the lady to the next room and finds a grand arena fit for the ancients. “The rules are simple but may throw you off guard, this is a single battle, and you may use only 5 Pokémon, you may not use any special evolutions or enhanced moves. You may also not use any healing items as well, this shall be a test of skill. Is that understood?” Makoto looks towards Arlo for a response.

“Loud and clear!” Arlo responds.

“That is reassuring, we may begin when we have both assumed position.”

They both take their places, Arlo looks eager to battle and waits for Makoto to make the first move. Makoto remains in thought. This trainer could have the most powerful Pokémon in the region but may treat them like tools, thought Makoto, I don’t want to test how strong his pawns are I want to see if he has truly developed a bond with his Pokémon. If he doesn’t show me that then he will not make it past Gerald, Makoto thought.

Makoto remains calm and composed and sends out an Omastar, her first Pokémon. Arlo then sends out Serperior, Makoto takes notice to its unusual color scheme.

“It seems you also have a collection of your own, you will have to show me it in detail some other time, but for now let us battle.”

Arlo nodded “Ok Serperior, let’s do this!”

Serperior starts by charging forward “Omastar, use Shell Smash” Omastar obeys and preforms the move “Serperior, use Leaf Storm!” which greatly damages Omastar but not enough to take him out. “Serperior, don’t let your guard down and follow up.”

“As expected, Omastar, use Blizzard” Serperior partially anticipated it and took some of the hit but did not come out unscathed “Serperior, now’s your chance to use Giga Drain!” and with that Omastar succumbed and was knocked out.

“Omastar, return” Arlo expected her to recall Omastar to his Pokeball but rather she sent him to the bench behind her, for him to watch. She then sent out a Tyrantrum, which let out a mighty roar. This forced Serperior into its Pokéball and forced out Lucario.

Arlo was thrown off a bit but managed to bounce back. Besides, he could still exploit a weakness. “Lucario, be careful of Earthquake.” He gave a warning to Lucario “Go, use Close Combat!”. Lucario ran forward and executed the move, hurting Tyrantrum but not close enough. Lucario was vulnerable, and Tyrantrum was ready to follow up with Earthquake. This caught Lucario off guard and knocked him out.

“Lucario, return!” Arlo called. He is down one Pokémon but is lucky he still has Serperior. “Go Serperior!” Without a second thought, he commanded “Serperior, use Leaf Storm” without anticipating much defense.

“Tyrantrum, use Ice Fang” which knocked back Serperior enough to mitigate the hit keeping Tyrantrum in the battle. This rattled Arlo a bit but not enough to make him fall flat on his back, just meant that a little bit more will be needed. “Serperior, use Leaf Smack!” Arlo said with haste. Makoto found it unusual that Arlo made such a common error but brushed it off as a nervous panic. “Tyrantrum, use Ice Fang” Makoto said as Tyrantrum charged forward, but as he made the move Serperior moved to the side and smacked Tyrantrum away with Vine Whip, finishing the job.

“Clever choice of words, Tyrantrum come back.” And with that Tyrantrum made its way to the bench. Arlo decided it may be wise to pull back and change things up, considering Serperior has a major advantage but is vulnerable “Serperior come back, go Duraludon!”

Makoto thought for a moment, but after a few seconds chose to send out Bastiodon. Arlo knew this would be a tough match, they both have roughly

the same weaknesses and they both can exploit them equally, the only edge Arlo has is Bastiodon is weaker to it than Duraldon. It was set in stone for Arlo.

“Duraldon, time to shine! Use Focus Energy!” Arlo yelled, getting both him and his partner pumped up. Duraldon began charging up a move.

What an interesting trainer this is, he has potential, but he is still going to have to prove himself Makoto thought. “Bastiodon, use Metal Sound!” Bastiodon followed and hit Duraldon, but Duraldon was unphased by this and without a moment to spare unleashed a Hyper Beam so strong that it nearly Knocked Out Bastiodon. He was nearly crippled and was holding on with sturdy.

Arlo could take a guess as to what may happen next, and rather than let the opponent deal some chip damage he might as well finish it off “Duraldon, finish it off with Earthquake” and with that Duraldon understood and dealt the finishing blow. This had been the most in sync Arlo has been with Duraldon, rather than simply commanding Duraldon he allowed Duraldon to act on its own when necessary, putting his trust in his partner.

“Splendid trainer! There is no point in continuing further, we can end it here. I have seen what I have wanted to see. No point in testing you further when you have passed with flying colors!” Said Makoto. “I see the fire burning in you and your Pokémon, you are no ordinary Pokémon Trainer. No, you have a bond between your Pokémon that differentiates you from a Pokémon Trainer. You do not battle for yourself, no you battle alongside your Pokémon as a friend not a master. You have what it takes to move on and challenge the Champion!” Makoto ponders for a moment and thinks about the Champion. Perhaps you can show him what he has forgotten, she thought, this boy has learned what you have failed to realize.